

Palestinian dies at Israeli checkpoint

GAZA CITY (AFP) — An elderly Palestinian who suffered a heart attack died Monday at an Israeli checkpoint where he had been stopped on the way to hospital, the Palestinian health ministry said. Yehuda Yaakub, 65, suffered a heart attack in his home village of Ein Kinya and was being transported to hospital in Ramallah when his car was stopped by a checkpoint enforcing a closure of West Bank towns, the ministry said. Yaakub died at the checkpoint "because of the delay caused by Israeli soldiers," the ministry said in a statement. An Israeli spokesman denied Yaakub was delayed at the checkpoint, saying soldiers had allowed him to pass after a check of his identity papers. "We have investigated the incident. The officer on hand said they checked the identity papers of the elderly man. The check took only a matter of minutes, then they let him pass," Shlomo Dror said.

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Tarawneh calls on U.S. to launch 'balanced initiative'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh Monday called on the United States to launch a "balanced initiative" to revamp peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Dr. Tarawneh, who was speaking in a press conference, urged the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is expected in the region on Wednesday, not to concentrate on "security issues" during her Middle East tour.

"Our message to Ms. (Madeleine) Albright and to the Americans is that any initiative should be a balanced one. Any initiative should be the basis for the resumption of negotiations," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"If it is not accepted by the Palestinians, at least in the minimum sense, no resumption of negotiations will take place," the minister added.

"They (the Americans) should take in consideration the Palestinian position and cannot dictate it upon them. As such, I think that the Americans are very much aware of this," Dr. Tarawneh said at the press conference.

"We know the importance of the security issue. But security is not the whole story. Therefore, we cannot say that at this stage, we have to focus on security,"

the minister said.

Dr. Tarawneh said that he hopes that when Ms. Albright arrives in the region, "her talks will not concentrate on this issue (security)... but on how to revive the peace process and not merely security."

Dr. Tarawneh said the Kingdom cannot propose an initiative to overcome the "crisis" between the Palestinians and Israelis but stressed that the role Jordan can play is to solve "minor" problems and only "when we are asked to do so by the concerned parties."

The minister urged the Israeli government to refrain from taking unilateral decisions that affect peace making with the Palestinians.

"Unilateral actions create lack of trust... not only the measures that have come after the suicide bombings, but the continuous measures that relate to the daily lives of the Palestinians," said Dr. Tarawneh.

Dr. Tarawneh emphasized that during and after the visit of Ms. Albright, the region will witness political efforts "from all directions" to reach a breakthrough to the stalled peace talks on all "tracks, including the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanon tracks."

The minister said he hopes that Ms. Albright will include Lebanon in her visit to the region to enhance the chances of resuming the talks between Israel from



one side and Lebanon and Syria from another side.

Ms. Albright is scheduled to travel to Israel, the Palestinian self-rule areas, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Tarawneh said Russia has "balanced ideas" to overcome the logjam in the stalled peace talks but stressed that these ideas do not level up to an initiative.

The minister, who arrived on Sunday from a tour that included several European states, said that Europe has also "ideas" to solve the differences in peace talks, but said that he will not reveal these ideas in detail.

(The ideas) "adopt a balanced stand between the Palestinians and Israelis and include the implementation of the agreements signed between the two sides to move into final sta-

tus negotiations," Dr. Tarawneh said. He declined to elaborate.

He added that the European ideas also consider the economic hardships the Palestinians are suffering and also how to revive the Israeli talks with Lebanon and Syria.

On the Kingdom's relations with Syria, Dr. Tarawneh admitted that the two countries' relations are not "as should be" because of a "misunderstanding" on behalf of Syria over Jordan's ties with Israel.

He said the Kingdom will continue its "contacts" with its northern neighbour to improve ties adding that the coming days will witness meetings with Syrian officials in Cairo and New York.

Netanyahu attacks peace process, says opposition 'should shut up'

PNA rounds up Islamists before Albright arrival; Israeli minister calls for arrest of President Arafat

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stepped up his assault Monday on the Oslo peace process, saying the Labour Party leaders who signed the accords should "lower their eyes in shame and shut up."

In the latest attack on the very foundations of the peace process following a series of deadly suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government said the blame lay with Labour politicians who agreed to place territory under the control of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The members of the Labour Party should lower their eyes in shame and shut up now that it has become clear that the agreement signed by the government they led endangers the security of Israeli citizens," Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said.

In an unusual written statement, Mr. Bazak said the agreements signed by former Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which handed parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip over to Palestinian rule "gave terrorists cities where they can find refuge and form bases."

He charged that the accords also "gave tens of thousands of weapons to the Palestinians and caused many deadly attacks, even while the Labour government continued to surrender and give to the Palestinians whatever they wanted."

The government's outburst came amid growing public debate over Mr. Netanyahu's decision last week to halt implementation of all peace accords signed with the Palestinians on the grounds that the PNA had failed to honour his commitment to crush suspected Islamists in areas under his control.

Mr. Netanyahu said this meant no application of interim peace arrangements which notably require further Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and a freeze on negotiations on "final status" issues concerning the scope and powers of a future Palestinian entity.

Mr. Bazak's statement followed a meeting of Labour Party leaders on Sunday which saw several politicians call for an all-out campaign to counter the policies of Mr. Netanyahu, who won elections last year on a platform of "peace with security."

"In view of the way he has murdered the Oslo peace process, the time has come to take off our gloves and attack Netanyahu in the



A Palestinian youth argues with an Israeli border-policeman over the policeman's insistence they line up for an identity check outside the Old City, Arab east Jerusalem (Reuters photo)

strongest possible terms," party member Dalia Yitzhik told the meeting, according to press reports.

A Labour spokesman said Mr. Bazak's attack followed a threat by the party to seek legal action against statements by a far-right member of the ruling coalition suggesting that those who negotiated the Oslo accords be put on trial.

The Labour Party wrote to Attorney-General Eliyahu Rubinstein demanding that the official, Nissan Slomiansky of the National Religious Party, be investigated for "incitement."

Adding fuel to the debate, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled called for the government to seek Mr. Arafat's arrest for failing to fight terrorism.

"I met with the prime minister to tell him that the definition of Arafat should be changed from partner to most-wanted man," Mr. Peled, a member of the ultra-nationalist Tzomet Party, told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Peled charged that while the bombers who carried out the Jerusalem attacks had not been identified, police knew the explosives used came from the Palestinian-ruled West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"All of the responsibility for the bombings is on Arafat," Mr. Peled said. "He is the head of a gang of murderers."

"The Palestinian partner in peace has not been born yet so it's not possible to continue in the peace process," he added.

Meanwhile, Palestinian security forces rounded up 35 suspects in the West Bank, cracking down for the first time since a triple sui-

Kahalani calls for national unity cabinet to save peace process

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani called Monday for the creation of a national unity government to save the collapsing peace process.

"The current situation is tearing the Israeli people apart," Mr. Kahalani, head of the centrist Third Way Party, said on Israel Radio.

"We need a national agreement on the future of the peace process and there is a good possibility that other political parties also see the need for a national unity cabinet," he said.

Mr. Kahalani said he had already discussed the matter with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of the powerful religious Party Shas, and the rabbi agreed about the need for a unity government.

The Third Way party has four seats in parliament and Shas 10, out of a total 67 for the governing coalition in the 120-member legislature.

Mr. Kahalani's proposal came following a series of blows to Israeli policy both towards the Palestinians and

in Lebanon. Two multiple suicide bombings in Jerusalem over the past six weeks led Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to freeze implementation of peace accords with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who he accused of not doing enough to fight armed militants.

Hours after the second suicide bombing, 12 Israeli marine commandos were killed in a botched raid into Lebanon, reviving calls from across the political spectrum for a reappraisal of Israel's policy of maintaining an occupied buffer zone in south Lebanon.

Following similar, if less serious, setbacks to peace in the 14 months since Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government came to power there have also been calls for a national unity government.

Former Labour Party leader Shimon Peres supported the notion, but his successor Ehud Barak and Yossi Sarid of the leftist Meretz Party are strongly opposed.

alert ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's first Middle East peace mission.

Palestinian forces arrested 35 suspects in the West Bank, cracking down for the first time since a triple sui-

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. Congress proposes annual aid to Jordan raised to \$250m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Congress has suggested that Washington increases its annual financial aid to Jordan to \$250 million in support of the Kingdom's economy, Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani said Monday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said the U.S. Congress proposed that the aid start from the next U.S. fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends in September 1998.

Dr. Anani said the proposal followed a visit to Jordan earlier this year by the head of the congressional foreign aid committee, Sonny

Callahan, who examined Jordan's development efforts and its role in the Middle East.

In a telephone interview with Jordan Television, Jordan's Ambassador to the United States Marwan Muasher on Monday described the U.S. Congress proposal to raise the American aid to Jordan to \$250 million as "unprecedented."

"The proposed \$250 million aid to Jordan was a draft law submitted by the Congress," said Dr. Muasher.

He added that the U.S. administration offered a proposal of \$175 million and that Jordan is "trying its best with the Congress to increase the U.S. aid to

\$250 million."

The aid comes at a time when the U.S. Congress has been submitting requests for decreases in foreign aid, rather than increases, Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani expressed hope that the U.S. administration will endorse Mr. Callahan's proposal by November, when negotiations on aid allocations are due to start.

As part of U.S. assistance to Jordan, last month Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and U.S. ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan signed three agreements on a U.S. government grant worth more than \$100 million in economic and development assistance to the Kingdom.

One-hundred million dollars have been made available to Jordan this year under the Middle East Peace and Stability Fund, which was announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Washington in June.

This year, Jordan will enjoy exclusive access to the fund which draws its resources from the "redirection of a small percentage of the economic support" allocated to Egypt and Israel.

Also last month, Jordan and the U.S. signed an agreement rescheduling payments on approximately \$58.5 million in loans.

(Continued to page 7)

Tarawneh says Jordan, EU reached understanding on most issues concerning association agreement

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amidst hopes that the association agreement between Jordan and the European Union (EU) will be signed soon, Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh on Monday said that both sides reached an understanding on most outstanding issues.

However, the minister did not say when he expected the agreement to be signed.

"We are in the process of solving many issues related to the increase in Jordan's quantities of agricultural produce that can be exported to Europe... (and) increasing exports of other Jordanian products... to Europe which could be done through joint ventures

in Jordan," said Dr. Tarawneh who returned on Sunday from a week-long visit to Spain where he met with the king of Spain, Juan Carlos, prime minister, Jose Maria Aznar, and foreign minister, Abel Matousis.

Dr. Tarawneh's visit came three months after Spain blocked the Euro-Jordan association agreement in protest against the size of the Kingdom's tomato paste quota.

Under the accord, initiated in April on the sidelines of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Malta, Jordan and EU countries could revise the variety and quantity of produce that can be exported under the deal.

However, Spain had

objected to the clause saying it could serve as a precedent for other southern Mediterranean countries to demand proportionate quotas.

Meanwhile, informed sources told the Jordan Times that Jordan agreed to omit the clause and as such has paved the way for negotiations pertaining to the increase in the quantities of the country's agricultural and industrial exports to the EU.

Dr. Tarawneh told reporters that the whole issue depends on the outcome of the European Council of Ministers meeting in Brussels this week.

Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan, Yves Gazzo, told

the Jordan Times on Monday that all outstanding issues have been discussed and the agreement is in the stage of "fine tuning."

Mr. Gazzo did not see any reason why the agreement should not be signed in the near future.

"Unless something unforeseen happens, there is no reason for not signing the accord soon," he said.

During his trip, Dr. Tarawneh stressed the need for increased financial support from the EU to assist the Kingdom in carrying out its economic reform programme and its social productivity programme geared towards alleviating poverty and

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. arms envoy holds second day of talks with Aziz

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Chief U.N. arms inspector Richard Butler held a second day of talks Monday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

A U.N. official said their delegations joined the talks, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf, Oil Minister General Amer Rashid and the head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Organisation, Abdul Tawwab Mulla Huwaysh.

Mr. Butler, on his second visit since taking over in

July as chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq, already held two rounds of talks with Mr. Aziz Sunday, Iraq's official news agency INA said.

The two officials were reviewing progress since their first meeting here in July, after the Australian arms expert replaced Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus. UNSCOM is still awaiting full details from Iraq on its germ warfare programmes.

Mr. Butler's mission, due to last until Tuesday, comes

ahead of a report which he is to submit to the U.N. Security Council by Oct. 11 on progress in dismantling Iraq's biological and chemical weaponry and long-range missiles.

The Security Council has threatened to impose additional sanctions against Iraq in October if Mr. Butler reports that Baghdad is continuing to hinder the arms inspectors, following a series of incidents in May and June.

But since Mr. Butler took over, Iraq has adopted a conciliatory tone and at least five arms inspections

have passed "very smoothly," according to Nils Carlstrom, director of a U.N. monitoring centre in Baghdad.

A U.N. oil embargo imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can only be lifted when UNSCOM certifies that Iraq has dismantled all weapons of mass destruction and proscribed arms programmes.

A probe of Iraq's pre-Gulf war nuclear programme is being led by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Opposition demands release of Ghosheh

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opposition parties Monday called on the government to release the spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Ibrahim Ghosheh, who was detained on Sunday for statements he made which supported suicide bombings against Israelis.

"This detention is not justified and baseless, unless it is part of the government's arrangements to receive the American secretary of state," said the statement, referring to the scheduled

visit of Madeleine Albright. "The detention is a response to American pressure calling to combat terrorism before the secretary of state starts her visit to the region," the statement added.

The one page statement by the opposition parties, which was signed by the Islamic Action Front, Nationalist Arab Party and left-wing parties, demanded the immediate release of Mr. Ghosheh.

Another statement by the Muslim Brotherhood Movement said that "Ghosheh's arrest" serves the interests of the enemy

(Israel) and challenges the feelings of Muslim solidarity with the fight in Palestine of Hamas and Islamic Jihad," AFP reported.

Mr. Ghosheh's detention came 24 hours after statements he gave to Reuters Television where he said that the "armed struggle against Israel will continue... as long as the detention of Palestinian prisoners continues."

Minister of foreign affairs, Faysal Tarawneh, told reporters at a press conference on Monday that the "arrest of Mr. Ghosheh is related to statements that are not in line with Jordanian laws."

Asked what are the laws that permit the detention of the spokesman of Hamas in Jordan, Dr. Tarawneh called upon the reporters to direct the question to the interior minister, Nader Rashid.

Dr. Tarawneh said the government denounced the "terrorist" attacks against Israeli civilians, referring to last week's triple suicide bombing which killed five Israelis and more than 170 were injured.

The military wing of Hamas, Izzedine Al Qassam, claimed responsibility for the attacks. Omar Ghosheh, the

Hamas spokesman's eldest son told the Jordan Times that Brotherhood leaders have contacted the deputy prime minister for development affairs, Jawad Anani, on Sunday who assured them that Mr. Ghosheh will be released on the same day.

He added that the family of Mr. Ghosheh demanded the International Committee of the Red Cross mission in Jordan to investigate the conditions of Mr. Ghosheh, who informed his family before he was arrested that he will start a hunger strike.



HIGH SECURITY ALERT: An Israeli bomb-sniffing dog, led by a border guard, on Monday checks out a flower pot in downtown Jerusalem as Israel went on high alert following last week's attack by three suicide bombers. The attacks, which were in this area, killed five Israelis. Security has also been stepped up ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is due to arrive on Wednesday (AFP)

Druze accused of spying for Syria released on bail

AKKO (AFP) — An Israeli court released on bail Monday a Druze woman from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights who is accused of spying for Syria, court officials said.

Iham Naif Abu Saleh, 30, was freed on \$14,000 bail and ordered to report to a Golan police station each day for 45 days and not to leave the country, court spokesman Moshe Gorali told Agence France Presse.

Israel Radio said police were expected to file formal charges within the 45-day period. Ms. Saleh denies the accusations.

Ms. Saleh, who like many Golan Druze studies at Damascus University, was arrested on espionage charges two weeks ago while visiting her family in the main Golan Druze town of Majdal Shams.

Her arrest sparked protests from Syria and street protests by Druze on the Golan Heights.

"They came in the middle of the night when I was sleeping by my sister," Ms. Saleh told the Israeli news service Ilim.

"I wasn't afraid because I didn't do anything against the state."

"The investigators told me that in the end I will have to tell them the truth that they want to know, not the truth that I know," Ms. Saleh added.

Israeli legal authorities have banned publication of further details about the charges against Ms. Saleh, the first Druze woman arrested for alleged security violations since Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 six-day war.

Israel-Jordan airport accord yet to take off

AMMAN (AFP) — Israel has made no formal request to fly into the Jordanian airport of Aqaba despite a recent accord between the two countries for joint use of the airfield, a Jordanian official said Monday.

The accord allows planes headed to the Israeli city of Eilat to land in nearby Aqaba, the first step

towards the eventual building of a joint airport between the Red Sea cities, outlined in the two countries' 1994 peace treaty.

"[Following] the signing of the joint memorandum, international flights from Israeli companies El Al and Arkia should head towards Aqaba airport after obtaining the necessary permis-

sion from Jordanian civil aviation," said Jordan's Civil Aviation Director Jasser Zayyad.

"No such demand has been made by the Israeli side and the project is lying dormant," Mr. Zayyad told Agence France Presse.

"Cooperation accords between Israel and Jordan must be implemented to

strengthen the credibility of the peace process," he said.

The accord relating to Aqaba, which has been dubbed the "Airport of Peace," was signed on August 31 after the two sides hammered out an agreement on security issues.

Turkey is preparing new rules for media, legal experts reveal

ANKARA (R) — Turkish legal experts said on Monday they were drawing up restrictions to protect individual privacy against media violations, now a worldwide issue after Princess Diana's death in a high-speed pursuit by the press.

Professor Bahri Ozgur, a member of a commission preparing a new Turkish penal code, told Reuters that the law would put restrictions on the media to protect people's privacy.

"Taking pictures of people or recording their voices without any permission is an interference of privacy as well as a human rights violation," he said.

He declined to say whether the project was linked to the role of the press in the crash nine days ago in which

Princess Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed died. But the Turkish press had no doubt.

"Princess Diana's law," the daily Radikal said in a headline in reference to Turkey's planned regulations.

Nine photographers and a motorcyclist for a photographic agency are targets of a manslaughter probe after the crash in Paris.

The Turkish media have few qualms about prying into the private lives of celebrities. Hidden cameras are often used by television companies and photographers.

"A bill to protect privacy bans tapping phones, taking secret photographs and pictures and using personal information regarding people's private life," Radikal said.

Syria on optimistic note ahead of Albright's visit

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria struck an optimistic note amid the gloom engulfing the crisis-torn Middle East peace process Monday, suggesting the United States could still save the process from meltdown.

"In spite of the pessimism in the region, it is still possible for Washington to take on its destined role so as to save the peace process and put it back on track," said the official Al Baath newspaper.

However, in an editorial ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's inaugural six-day Middle East tour later this week, the paper said progress rested on respect for the principles of the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

"The region will know neither peace nor security nor stability without the respect of the principles of Madrid," said the paper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party.

Ms. Albright's trip comes

with the peace process on its knees following two suicide bombings in Jerusalem, six weeks apart, that have left 20 Israelis dead and more than 300 wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he no longer felt bound by the 1993 Oslo peace accords with the Palestinians, and said all peace deals were off until the Palestinians cracked down on Islamists responsible for the bomb attacks.

The official Tishrin daily called Mr. Netanyahu a "loose cannon," saying that his slogan of "peace with security" had shown itself to be an illusion.

The paper said that only peace can bring security for Israel, and it called on Mr. Netanyahu to learn the lessons of last week's bungled commando raid on guerrilla bases in south Lebanon which left 12 Israeli soldiers dead.

Iranian schoolchildren cautioned against wearing Western symbols

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Education Ministry has banned schoolchildren from wearing outfits or using stationery items decorated with Western symbols, newspapers said Monday.

Education Minister Hussein Mozafari issued a directive ahead of the start of the school year saying "the use of bags, shoes and stationery items bearing decadent Western signs and

pictures or Latin letters is a form of repressive cultural invasion."

Iran has recently intensified a campaign begun after the 1979 Islamic revolution to eradicate all traces of Western culture in the Islamic republic.

But Western symbols and images of popular culture are much sought-after among young people. Businesses often exploit the trend to manufacture

colourful children's goods decorated with such labels.

The new education minister was appointed last month by the new relatively moderate government of President Mohammad Khatami.

Mr. Khatami was elected in a landslide in May, in large part due to a solid support from the young population which hoped for greater personal freedom.

UAE execution delayed to attract 'bigger crowd'

ABU DHABI (R) — Two murderers condemned to be publicly humiliated Monday and then executed appear to have won three more days of life in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) prison — apparently to draw a bigger crowd to the spectacle.

The condemned men were members of a gang of six who ambushed and murdered five foreign currency couriers in separate cases over four months up to July 1995.

They were to have been tied to

posts in public all day Monday and executed Tuesday. A statement Sunday by the oil-rich Gulf Arab state's Justice Ministry said an Islamic Sharia court in the oasis town of Al 'Ain had handed down the sentence.

A government source said the Justice Ministry had asked the country's official news agency WAM to cancel the statement, which had referred to the men being crucified, and would issue another in the next two days.

A public relations officer at Al

Ain central prison told Reuters Monday the humiliation and execution had been postponed, but gave no date.

The government source said: "The verdict will be put into effect as far as I know."

The comments followed a front page report in Gulf News, one of the country's leading newspapers, that the two men would be tied to posts with their hands behind their backs for a full day for public viewing Thursday. They would be exe-

cuted Friday by firing squad near the central prison in Al 'Ain which is about 100 kilometres east of the UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

The report quoted an unnamed Justice Ministry official as saying the judgement had been delayed to attract a wider audience to serve as a deterrent to others.

Gulf News published photographs of the two condemned men, Majid Fakher Hussein Majeed, a UAE national, and

Abdul Mehdi Karim Mushtaq, an Iranian, with black bars across their eyes. Both are 28.

Their victims were all currency exchange couriers. Four were Asians and one was a national of one of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE.

The victims were lured into remote desert areas, robbed and then shot dead, the ministry statement said.

The four other members of the

gang remain in custody.

The Sharia court sentence was confirmed by the Appeals Court and the Higher Federal Court and approved by President Sheikh Zeid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the ministry said.

Gulf News was the only UAE publication to report the sentence. News agencies in the GCC countries who reported the original Justice Ministry statement said later it should be viewed as cancelled.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10.....Sando Can
14:30.....C.R.O.
15:00.....Square One TV
15:30.....Skiway
16:00.....Album Show
17:00.....French Programmes
19:00.....News in French
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Coach
20:00.....Tilt
20:30.....Encounter
21:10 Doc. — Nature of Things
22:00.....News in English
22:30.....Great Defender
23:15.....I Remember Nelson
23:59.....End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51.....Fajr
06:10.....(Sunrise) Duha
12:33.....Dhuhr
16:06.....'Asr
18:56.....Maghreb
20:15.....'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

623366

Anglican Church Tel. 652836.

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

Amman International Church

Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures higher than average by about three degrees centigrade.

Winds will be light and variable occasionally becoming north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be warm, winds northerly

moderate and seas calm.

Amman18/34

Aqaba25/38

Deserts15/36

Jordan Valley24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 33, Aqaba 36 Humidity

readings: Amman 37 per

cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim885446

Dr. Arafat Ashhab602507

Dr. Ayman Mubtasab875748

Dr. Jamal Jbarah847351

Ferdous pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Nairoukh pharmacy623672

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr276852

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ya'qub Al Khatib991772

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Dept661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescu

.....630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192, 621111,

637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department

.....630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints787111

Telephone Information (direc-

tory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

.....815615

Electric Power Company

636381

RJ Flight Information

063200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hagaga Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalidi Maternity644281/6

Akdeh Maternity642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Musabir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/2

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital

.....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital(09)86732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

.....(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

.....(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

.....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital



MINISTER OPENS CONFERENCE: Deputising for His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Monday opens the Second Arab Astronomy Conference, held in cooperation with Al Al Bayt University, at the Royal Geographic Centre (Petra photo)

Communications conference ends with discussion of reporting techniques

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A specialised reporting workshop on international coverage, and a discussion entitled "Journalism Education: Meeting the Market Demand" were the two sessions that took place Monday morning at the final day of the "Communication and Diplomacy: New Horizons in the Information Age" three-day conference.

Drawing from the wide range of expertise, backgrounds, and practical experiences of the panelists and participants, the workshop addressed several issues concerning print and broadcast media. The issues included writing a news story, the news value of stories, interviewing techniques, and ethical dilemmas faced by reporters.

Leonard Ray Teel, a professor at Georgia State University and the moderator of yesterday's workshop, initiated the discussion by talking about the globalisation of news stories. "Any news story you work on can be local and global," said Dr. Teel. "No matter how local the story is, there is always a global connection because we live in a global village."

Dr. Teel also urged

reporters to go beyond the surface in search of the real essence of any news story.

The conceptualisation of a good news story was one of the topics many panelists and participants touched upon during the workshop.

"When I write a news story, I see myself as the audience; as the receiver, not the participant, and I put myself in the shoes of the people I am writing about," said Samar Shunna from Al Najah National University.

Octavia Nasr, a prominent CNN reporter and one of the panelists, highlighted the importance of relevance today's journalism. "Relevance is an important topic," said Ms. Nasr, "we should think of the audience first." She said if the audience of the story changes, the story shifts completely.

Tudor Lamas, director of Jemstone, a journal focusing on the Middle East and another member of the panel, said it is vital, though not easy, to not only understand the story at hand but also the audience receiving the story.

To understand the story better, the panel emphasised the significance of researching and interviewing techniques before attempting to tackle the story.

"You should go into an interview having as much information as possible," said David Coulson, a professor at the University of Nevada-Reno.

The panel agreed that the more information one has going into an interview, the more control he or she has over the interview. Reporters need to be informed citizens and should not ignore the importance of researching.

"Everyday should be a researching day for journalists," said Ms. Nasr. Ms. Nasr said from her experiences she learned that one should be "ahead of the news and not with it."

Mr. Lomas said he was very pleased at the general outcome of the conference for many reasons.

"The inability of the Arab World to put their [views] across effectively and persuasively in the Western media is one of the biggest tragedies of the last thirty years," he said.

This is the main idea with which the conference has to be concerned, he added.

By joining Western media professionals and educators with Arab media professionals and educators, the conference has taken a big step to solve the root of this problem, he concluded.

Delegates to UNRWA meeting agree on 'unified stand' — official

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees have agreed on a unified stand with regard to the 1998-1999 fiscal budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which will be discussed today at a meeting comprising the host countries and donor nations, according to the director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Ibrahim Tarshihi Monday.

The agency's fiscal budget for the upcoming year will be the same as the 1996-1997 budget, disregarding the refugee population's increase, the rate of inflation, and the necessary requirements for the agency's operations, he said.

The countries hosting the refugees have agreed to demand an increase in the fiscal budget so that UNRWA can provide services in its fields of opera-

tions, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

The meeting, which will be held as a follow-up to one held in Amman last June, is to focus attention on the agency's recurrent annual deficits in general, and 1997's outstanding \$20 million deficit in particular, as well as the recent austerity measures taken, according to Mr. Tarshihi.

These measures include imposition of tuition fees on school children, freezing the appointment of teachers, and reduction in hospitalisation programmes and medical treatment services, he said.

The Arab countries hosting the refugees have agreed to reject these measures, which adversely affect living conditions and place additional burdens on the host countries, he explained.

The host countries have also agreed to call on the

donor nations to honour their commitments to UNRWA and provide the funds necessary to cover the deficit, he said.

Meanwhile, an UNRWA source Monday said during today's closed door meeting, to be attended by 23 heads of UNRWA's health, education, and social relief departments will submit reports about the situation and the outlook for the next two years.

UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen is scheduled to address a press conference Wednesday to talk about the outcome of the meeting and the resolutions adopted by the delegates.

Mr. Hansen has already briefed representatives of the Arab host countries on the agency's current financial status and heard their proposals for addressing the situation.

Second sit-in held to protest UNRWA service cuts

By Ghalia Aful
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Insistent on their stand against the decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to trim its basic services to Palestinian refugees, agency staff representatives Monday staged another sit-in in front of UNRWA headquarters.

"These measures constitute a political decision," an official source from UNRWA's employees' committee told the Jordan Times Monday.

He added that UNRWA staff representatives Tuesday will stage a larger sit-in, in which political activists, members of Parliament, agency school students, parents, and teachers are expected to participate.

"We received great support from all parties who expressed willingness to participate in this Palestinian day of anger," he said.

The source criticised a decision by members of UNRWA's executive committee for services not to take part in Tuesday's sit-in.

He explained that Tuesday's sit-in will be part of a stepped-up campaign against UNRWA's decision to impose austerity measures.

UNRWA's decision to reduce its basic health, educational, and social services was prompted by a budget deficit of about \$20 million. However, the source, who requested anonymity, described the agency's decision as "unjustified", saying UNRWA is continuously employing and promoting staff at its headquarters.

"They are spending an unnecessary 15 per cent managerial allowance for persons grade 16 and above each month," the source said.

Today's sit-in coincides with a meeting by representatives of donor nations and host governments who are expected to discuss UNRWA's services and fiscal budget.

This donor nations' meeting will be the second since June, when UNRWA succeeded in reducing its budget deficit from approximately \$30 million to \$26 million.

UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen has stressed that the agency is in need of larger donations to counter the increase in its refugee population.

He has also announced that the agency will introduce what he called "cost sharing", where the refugees would be required to contribute a "symbolic amount of money" to cover health and educational costs.

But the source said UNRWA school students are meanwhile required to pay tuition fees equal to those imposed by government schools in Jordan.

"The amount is not symbolic for refugees...students are also required to cover all school costs such as books, etc.," the source added.

UNRWA staff representatives also staged a brief sit-in on Sunday in protest against the agency's austerity measures.

They sent a memorandum to UNRWA officials holding the agency responsible for the consequences of its decision on Palestinian refugees in the agency's five areas of operation.

Also last week, the 11 opposition parties issued a statement attacking UNRWA's decision to reduce its services and accusing it of plotting to settle refugees and eliminating the Palestinian problem.

UNRWA staff representatives are expected to take their demands to the donors' gathering at the Forte Grand Hotel on Tuesday, the source said.

"The protest will begin in front of the UNRWA branch office, then we plan to move to Forte Grand, where the donors will be meeting," he said.

Petra, Iranian news agency sign agreement for news exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) Monday concluded an agreement on the exchange of news to be used for radio and television broadcasts.

Under the agreement, which was signed by Petra-Director Abdullah Etoum and IRNA Director Freidun Njad, the two news agencies will give preference to items received from the other and accurately relay the news as it arrives.

The agreement, signed in the presence of Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawil, provides for the two

national news agencies to exchange news and other programmes via satellite and photos of important events.

In the agreement, Petra and IRNA requested the establishment of offices in Amman and Tehran to facilitate their missions, and the exchange of visits by journalists.

Both parties agreed that the one-year accord will be renewed automatically, unless one side notifies the other in writing at least three months before the contract expires.

Following the signing, Dr. Mutawil affirmed Jordan's desire to strengthen ties with

Arab and friendly nations, particularly Islamic countries.

Dr. Mutawil said the Ministry of Information is considering an institute that would train personnel in the media, including press, radio, and television, adding that the institute would be open for trainees from Arab and Islamic countries.

Mr. Njad expressed his government's desire to bolster cooperation with Jordan in information-related fields.

He said Iran seeks cooperation with Arab states in order to present the true image of Islam in the face of stereotypes in Western countries.

Jordanian-Yemeni joint committee examines bilateral agreements

SANAA (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Joint Committee, co-chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Yemeni counterpart Faraj Ben Ghanem, Monday opened a meeting to review recommendations submitted by the joint preparatory committee on protocols and agreements, which are expected to be signed Wednesday.

A report by Jordan Television said the two prime ministers reaffirmed their countries' determination to bolster bilateral relations in all domains.

The Yemeni prime minister said the meetings reflect the desire of the two countries' leaderships to further enhance bilateral ties.

Dr. Majali said economic blocs are necessary to achieve prosperity in the future, but strong bilateral ties in political, cultural, and social realms form the basis of such blocs.

Yemen and Jordan are pursuing the right path towards forming a strong economic bloc, with private and public sectors joining hands in the implementation of projects in energy, education, health,

agriculture, labour, culture, telecommunications, and energy, he continued.

Dr. Majali earlier called on the speaker of the Yemeni consultative council Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and discussed parliamentary cooperation.

He also visited the Jordanian embassy in Sanaa.

The prime ministers are also scheduled to sign the minutes of the deliberations of the higher committee meeting before Dr. Majali leaves for Khartoum on a visit to Sudan.

UJ archaeologists discover Byzantine artefacts

AMMAN (Petra) — Students at the Department of Antiquities at the University of Jordan discovered a Byzantine grape press in Yajouz area. The expedition led by Lutfi Khalil, also found a Byzantine cave, as well as pottery from the Umayyad era.

Tour guide association dissolved due to lack of 'legal framework'

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Tour Guide Association (JTGA), which according to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities had operated without a legal umbrella since its establishment in 1988, was dissolved by the ministry to formulate a legal framework, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji said.

According to Mr. Biltaji, the dissolution of the JTGA was a routine process, similar to what previously happened with the Hotel Association, the Transport Association, and the Travel Agents Association.

"The ministry alerted the association of this move well in advance," he told the Jordan Times.

"The JTGA was dissolved like other associations in compliance with the terms and regulations of the tourism law," the minister said.

Former JTGA President Mohammed Hamdeh, who held the post of JTGA president since its creation, confirmed Mr. Biltaji's assessment of the situation.

When queried about a rest house on the Amman-Aqaba highway, which was an investment of 67 tour guides and Mr. Hamdeh, he explained to the Jordan Times that "because of the fluctuating nature of tourism in the country, we decided to invest in some businesses as an extra source of income."

He stressed that the rest house was well within legal limits and was not an illegal investment.

Speaking on the subject of tour guide commissions, Mr. Hamdeh maintained that no law existed prohibiting tour guides from receiving commissions from tour services.

"Such practices are usual and common all over the world," he said.

He said he believed that it was only after the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that Jordanian tour guides became targets of corruption and commission allegations.

"We found out that Israeli tour guides accompanying tourist groups into the Kingdom were giving

false historical facts about Jordan," he said.

To avoid this problem, the JTGA offered the services of its own Hebrew speaking guides "but they [Israeli tour services] were not interested in utilising our guides," Mr. Hamdeh explained.

In 1996, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities issued a new law prohibiting foreign tour guides from operating in the Kingdom.

"So, every group coming into the Kingdom had to be accompanied by a Jordanian tour guide. This did not please some, as many letters of complaint started to flood local newspapers about the JTGA," Mr. Hamdeh commented.

The JTGA was dissolved Aug. 25 on an order issued by Mr. Biltaji, in compliance with ordinance number 20 of the Tourism Law of 1988.

A temporary committee has been appointed to handle the association's affairs, headed by a representative from the Ministry of Tourism, and composed of five registered tour guides and members from the Audit Bureau and

the Inspection and Tourism Control Department.

The minister described the recent dissolution of the JTGA as timely, saying "the new regulations will impose strict adherence to various issues."

Some of these issues, he said, relate to the classification of tour guides, the areas they cover, and the languages they should master.

The minister disclosed that a guide's code of ethics is also on the list of priorities to be implemented in the new association.

"This new code of ethics includes rules governing conflict of interests," he explained.

Mr. Hamdeh said for the past six months the JTGA had been working on establishing new association rules and regulations.

"But it will be some time before these regulations are endorsed, as they have to go through a long bureaucratic process," he said.

The minister, however, said that a new association would be set up within two months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senator Hindawi heads to Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Senator Thouqan Hindawi heads for Cairo today to take part in the 98th International Parliamentary Union Conference which will be opened Thursday. Mr. Hindawi will address the audience outlining Jordan's views of certain regional and international issues.

Hijaz railway suspends operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hijaz Railway Corporation on Monday will suspend transporting passengers and goods from Amman to Damascus as of next Sunday for one month. The corporation's Director General Abdul Razzaq Abdul Fattah said that the stoppage is due to construction works in the Zarqa railway.

Diabetes conference to open next month

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference on diabetes will be held at the University of Jordan Oct. 26-28. Participants from the United States, Japan, Denmark, Norway, Greece, and Italy, as well as Arab countries, are taking part.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Concert of duo kanon and oud by Faris Hameed Yaseen and Ra'id Ghoshba Shamon at the courtyard of the Byzantine Church at 8:00 p.m.

* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Daloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadiji at the South Hall.

* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohamad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

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* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

PLAY

* Children's play — "The Treasure" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FILM

* Egyptian film "The Iron Gate" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).

* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

* Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 9.

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Afghanistan's Taleban report capture of northern town

ISLAMABAD (Agencies)

Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia said they captured Monday the northern town of Tashgurgan, 50 kilometres east of the opposition capital Mazar-e-Sharif, in an offensive from neighbouring Kunduz province.

Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmad, quoted by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) news service, said Taleban forces had seized Tashgurgan, in Samangan province, but gave no details.

AIP said 13 Taleban fighters and eight of their opponents were killed in overnight fighting, and about 40 opposition fighters were captured.

The reported Taleban advance followed fighting Sunday in which the Islamic militia said they captured the area of Kotal Ergank, 20 kilometres west of Kunduz, from ethnic Uzbek troops loyal to opposition leader General Abdul Malik.

Opposition spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment and there was no other account of the fighting.

The Taleban briefly occupied Mazar-e-Sharif in May when Gen. Malik allied with them to oust former Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, but they were driven from the city with heavy losses after Gen. Malik changed sides.

Meanwhile at least seven rockets fired by anti-Taleban forces slammed into the Kabul Airport compound early Monday but caused little damage, witnesses reported.

"At least five rockets landed in the early hours and two more in the middle of this morning," a shopkeeper living close to the Taleban-held and war battered airport told AFP.

The shop owner and a number of local residents said the rockets fell well within the vast airport com-

S. Arabia backs U.N. efforts to halt Afghan bloodshed

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has urged the efforts of the United Nations and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to halt the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan, Mr. Ibrahim, met here Sunday with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Faisal who pledged to support the U.N. efforts.

"I have sensed a determination on the part of the U.N. to find a solution which would put an end to the crisis in Afghanistan," Mr. Ibrahim said.

Mr. Ibrahim said he also met Saudi Ambassador to Jeddah with the head of Afghanistan's Islamic movement, Mohammed Rabbani, who has been in Saudi since last week.

"Again I listened to the point of view of the Islamic movement," he said.

The U.N. envoy — combining his peace efforts with Jeddah-based OSCE — has already visited Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Russia. After Saudi Arabia, he will travel to India, Japan, Europe and the United States.

OSCE Secretary General Izetbegovic said the priority is to halt fighting between the warring factions in Afghanistan, before organising a reconciliation conference.

The Islamic Taleban militia, which has been in power in Kabul for the last 12 months, supports a conference as long as it takes place in Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf kingdom in 1993 hosted peace talks between Afghan rivals that led to the signing of an agreement known as the "Mecca accord" but which has never been implemented.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are the only countries to have recognised the Taleban government which controls the southern two-thirds of Afghanistan.

Despite sporadic battles and frequent bombing raids, the positions have remained deadlocked for seven weeks, with the belligerent factions only succeeding in laying waste to a fertile and picturesque farming district.

Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar has refused talks with opposition unless hundreds of Taleban prisoners captured in Mazar-e-Sharif are released first.

In an interview carried by AIP Monday, the reclusive Taleban chief said he was ready to talk with other opposition leaders, such as former government commander Ahmad Shah Masood within 25 kilometres of the city.

But located on the far northern edge of Kabul, the airport remains within range of Mr. Masood's vast arsenal of left over rockets from the Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989.

telephone interview from his headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar, also offered to negotiate with Iran, which he accused of meddling in Afghanistan, AIP said.

He said the Taleban had captured Iranian-made arms and ammunition from the fighters of an opposition northern alliance.

"Denying Iran's involvement in Afghanistan is like denying the existence of the sun," Mullah Omar said, promising the captured weaponry would be shown to the international media.

In the interview, which AIP said had taken place Saturday, Mullah Omar said the Taleban were ready to resolve their differences with Tehran through dialogue, despite what he called Iran's continuous interference in internal Afghan affairs.

Mullah Omar urged Iran's new government to hold talks to end bloodshed in Afghanistan and restore Afghan-Iranian friendship.

Afghan political sources said the new acting foreign minister appointed by Mullah Omar last week, Mullah Mohammad Hassan, might try to promote a reconciliation with Iran.

Mullah Hassan, previously the deputy leader of the Taleban's six-man ruling interim council in Kabul, replaced Mullah Mohammad Ghous, one of those seized in Mazar-e-Sharif. The Taleban later said Mullah Ghous had escaped.

Mullah Omar, who hardly ever speaks to foreign dignitaries or reporters, is the founder of the Taleban and has been based in Kandahar since his religious warriors captured it in 1994.

The Taleban want to enforce their strict version of Islamic Sharia rule across Afghanistan. They control two-thirds of the country, including the capital Kabul, which they took nearly a year ago.



Afghan women, wearing burqa robes, walk past destroyed houses in Kabul. Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia gained ground against opposition forces in the northern province of Kunduz Sunday. The Taleban, who captured Kabul nearly a year ago and control at least two thirds of Afghanistan, have forced all Kabul women to wear the burqa, in line with their strict interpretation of Islamic law (Reuters photo)

Anjouan reaffirms its independence after routing Comoran troops

MUTSAMUDU (AFP) — Separatists on the Indian Ocean island of Anjouan

reasserted their self-proclaimed independence Monday after routing Comoran government troops in fierce fighting last week.

The leader of the secessionists, businessman Ahmad "Charlie" Charikane told journalists who arrived on the small island overnight that he planned to organise a "cabinet meeting" Monday morning.

"We're going to take decisions," Mr. Charikane said at an impromptu candlelit gathering in Anjouan's only open hotel.

"Our top priority is to reestablish telephone lines because Moroni (the authorities in the Comoro Islands capital) want us isolated. Let them know, and let France know, that Anjouan has seized its independence."

Mr. Charikane said that 40 soldiers of the Islamic Federal Republic were killed during fighting mainly Thursday, a day after President Mohammed Taki Abdoukarim sent troops in a bid to put down the uprising, while separatists took 98 prisoners.

Around a dozen civilians also lost their lives, according to an initial toll established by a Matsumudu representative of the non-governmental organisation Pharmaciens Sans Frontières (Pharmacists Without Borders).

Dozens of Anjouanese separatist fighters gathered Monday in the winding streets of the Medina, the old quarter of Anjouan's small capital, where the worst of the bloodletting took place.

Some of their number told AFP that the expeditionary force despatched from Moroni, the capital on Grande Comore, landed early Wednesday near Anjouan's Ouani Airport and also tried to take the Matsumudu Port before local resistance quashed Mr. Taki's forces.

Three islands of the Comoran archipelago became independent from France in 1975 and the small republic has since witnessed considerable political unrest, including numerous successful or foiled coups and mercenary intervention.

Mayotte, the fourth island, chose by referendum to remain under French rule.

Mr. Charikane early Monday formally called on Paris for help.

"France should come here to reestablish order," he told journalists, "because we have been the victims of aggression."

WHO says child deaths can be cut

GENEVA (R) — Many of the 11 million children die

every year before reaching the age of five could be saved by a new strategy to improve the diagnosis of their illnesses, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Monday.

In papers released in advance of a conference on the issue in the Dominican Republic this week, the United Nations agency said the approach should be implemented urgently in as many countries as possible.

"Since 1990, around 80 million children have died before their fifth birthday. Fifty five million of them were killed by diarrhoea, pneumonia, measles, malaria or malnutrition," the WHO said.

The five conditions, it added, "will claim many more millions of children's lives before the year 2000."

Inexpensive treatments would save most of those lives.

Three in every four children whose parents seek health care were suffering from one or more of the five. But signs and symptoms of the five killers often overlap, leading to mis-diagnosis and wrong or inadequate treatment, the WHO said.

Many deaths could be prevented if the strategy, known as Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, or IMCI, were applied widely in and beyond the 20 countries where it has been used locally on an experimental basis over the past year.

Under IMCI, children are screened at the same time for the five conditions.

Initial application of IMCI in countries like Tanzania, Brazil, Morocco, Indonesia

and the Dominican Republic — together with better training for health workers and improved supplies of essential medicines — had brought good results.

Now a further 20 countries ranging from the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to India and Bangladesh — had expressed an interest in launching similar programmes.

WHO, together with the U.N. children's fund UNICEF was now aiming to implement it in developing countries around the world, the agency said.

"If we do not take action now, these five conditions will continue to be the major causes of childhood death 10 or 20 years from now," said Dr. Jim Tulloch, director of the WHO's child health and development division.

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and the Dominican Republic — together with better training for health workers and improved supplies of essential medicines — had brought good results.

U.S. nuclear sub visits Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — A

U.S. Navy nuclear submarine has paid a low-key visit to Hong Kong, discreetly entering Chinese waters with Beijing's approval for the first time.

A U.S. consulate official told Reuters Monday the nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS Portsmouth visited Hong Kong two weeks ago with a support ship, the USS Frank Cable.

"The Chinese cleared it and it came in and got provisions and I presume the people on board went ashore for some recreation," the official said in response to Reuters enquiries. She declined to offer further details.

The submarine berthed in Hong Kong from Aug. 18 to 23 on a routine rest and recreation stop, she said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry commissioner's office, which grants approval for visits by foreign warships, had no comment.

Military analysts said the visit was unprecedented.

"It's unusual for a nuclear-powered ship to come into Chinese waters. It is unprecedented, I'm really surprised," said defence expert, Paul Beaver of Jane's information group.

"I would have thought the Chinese would object. It's proof they consider Hong Kong to be autonomous," Mr. Beaver told a Hong Kong newspaper.

Hong Kong was a British colony for 156 years but reverted to Chinese control on July 1 as a special capitalist region. The sea around Hong Kong now belongs to China, and the People's Liberation Army is responsible for defence in the territory.

The port call was not announced by the U.S. consulate, unlike visits by other warships, which entertain local dignitaries and the media on board during their stays.

The seventh fleet flagship USS blue ridge and escort ships staged a high-profile port call a month ago.

Last week a seven-vessel naval battle group led by the aircraft carrier USS constellation stopped in for five days to provide a recreation break for some 7,000 sailors.

The Portsmouth does not normally carry nuclear warheads, according to Jane's fighting ships, but is armed with formidable weaponry including nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missiles. The submarine carries 133 crew members.

U.S. warships make 60 to 70 visits per year to Hong Kong.

The submarine's entry into Chinese territorial waters would have given the U.S. Navy a chance to gauge China's ability to track submarines, experts said, and reflected improving defence links between Beijing and Washington.

Hashimoto reelected as party chief

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, whose assertive style has helped revived conservative fortunes, was re-elected uncontested Monday as head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

No one stood against the tough negotiator as he vowed to pursue his drive for wide-ranging reform, which includes the "Tokyo Big Bang" programme for deregulating Japan's financial markets.

"I shall continue to devote myself to push forward various reforms and create a new nation brimming with vigor," said Mr. Hashimoto, 60, who took over as premier from Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama 20 months ago.

He is expected to reshuffle key party and government posts Thursday when his second two-year term is rubber-stamped by a full session of LDP members of both

houses of parliament.

Mr. Hashimoto is expected to retain Hiroshi Mitsuoka as finance minister in his second cabinet shakeup, which is expected to follow LDP's traditional approach of pleasing every faction.

His victory came only three days after LDP regained a majority in the all-important House of Representatives for the first time in four years as another defector rejoined the party.

Amid a move to reunite conservatives in the ruling and opposition camps, a dozen have crossed the floor to the LDP since general elections last October.

The LDP now has 250 seats in the 500-seat lower house while its upper house strength stands at 112 out of 252.

The LDP lost its 38-year-old scandal-tainted grip on power in 1993 when it was beaten by a coalition led by reformist party defectors and

the Buddhist-backed party Komeito.

But it was helped back to power the next year in a coalition of expedience with Mr. Murayama's Social Democrat Party and the New Party Sakigake — reformist parties which have such diverging views on national defence and welfare.

"We shall not forget the verdict passed by the people four years ago," Mr. Hashimoto told a news conference.

"We will continue to reform the party in a humble way," he said.

Mr. Hashimoto, who has previously served in various portfolios including finance and foreign trade, reaffirmed that he would seek support from further afield than his faction-ridden party and tumultuous alliance.

The LDP is bickering over its ties with the two parties which have been displaced through elections and defections.

Flag lowered over palace; U.K. media pledge change

LONDON (R) — The Union

Jack flown at half-mast over Buckingham Palace was taken down at dawn Monday after an unprecedented week of mourning for Princess Diana that could presage sweeping change for both the media and the British monarchy.

British newspapers, blamed by Princess Diana's brother for making the princess the "most hunted woman of the modern age," pledged to leave her sons in peace.

The Sun tabloid said it had "no intention of carrying photographs which invade the privacy of Princes William and Harry."

The editor of the Independent, Andrew Marr, said it would "never again publish any pictures of the princes in a private situation."

But newspapers also warned the royal family — criticised for remaining aloof last week while the nation wept — that it would have to modernise to survive.

"Unless those in authority act quickly, the bitterness that is also a legacy of last week's events may fester," the Times said in its editorial.

"The lessons for the palace of last week's near-fiasco are incalculable."

Queen Elizabeth's decision to allow the Union Flag to fly at half-mast over the palace, taken after several days of growing criticism of the royal family, was an unprecedented break with protocol.

It was originally due to come down Saturday night after Princess Diana's funeral but was left to flutter for a further 24 hours as Britons spent Sunday flocking once again to the Kensington Palace home of the "people's princess."

Aides of heir-to-the-throne, Prince Charles, whose stiff formality was in sharp contrast to the warmth and spontaneity of Princess Diana both during and after their mar-

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"Unless those in authority act quickly, the bitterness that is also a legacy of last week's events may fester," the Times said in its editorial.

"The lessons for the palace of last week's near-fiasco are incalculable."

Queen Elizabeth's decision to allow the Union Flag to fly at half-mast over the palace, taken after several days of growing criticism of the royal family, was an unprecedented break with protocol.

It was originally due to come down Saturday night after Princess Diana's funeral but was left to flutter for a further 24 hours as Britons spent Sunday flocking once again to the Kensington Palace home of the "people's princess."

Aides of heir-to-the-throne, Prince Charles, whose stiff formality was in sharp contrast to the warmth and spontaneity of Princess Diana both during and after their mar-

expected to rocket to the top of the charts when it goes on sale this week.

The rewrite of his 1974 tribute to Marilyn Monroe is expected to raise £10 million or more for Princess Diana's charities.

Meanwhile Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of last week's car crash which killed Princess Diana, says he feels partly to blame for the accident, Germany's Bild newspaper reported Monday.

"I feel partly guilty. But I couldn't do anything to prevent the accident," Bild quoted Mr. Rees-Jones as telling his mother and step-father in hospital. "I am deeply upset that the princess and Dodi died."

Bild did not give any further details as to how the bodyguard felt responsible for the accident in which Princess Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed and their driver Henri Paul died.

Dozens of Anjouanese separatist fighters gathered Monday in the winding streets of the Medina, the old quarter of Anjouan's small capital, where the worst of the bloodletting took place.

Some of their number told AFP that the expeditionary force despatched from Moroni, the capital on Grande Comore, landed early Wednesday near Anjouan's Ouani Airport and also tried to take the Matsumudu Port before local resistance quashed Mr. Taki's forces.

Three islands of the Comoran archipelago became independent from France in 1975 and the small republic has since witnessed considerable political unrest, including numerous successful or foiled coups and mercenary intervention.

Mayotte, the fourth island, chose by referendum to remain under French rule.

Mr. Charikane early Monday formally called on Paris for help.

"France should come here to reestablish order," he told journalists, "because we have been the victims of aggression."

The Portsmouth does not normally carry nuclear warheads, according to Jane's fighting ships, but is armed with formidable weaponry including nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missiles. The submarine carries 133 crew members.

U.S. warships make 60 to 70 visits per year to Hong Kong.

The submarine's entry into Chinese territorial waters would have given the U.S. Navy a chance to gauge China's ability to track submarines, experts said, and reflected improving defence links between Beijing and Washington.

Military analysts said the visit was unprecedented.

"It's unusual for a nuclear-powered ship to come into Chinese waters. It is unprecedented, I'm really surprised," said defence expert, Paul Beaver of Jane's information group.

"I would have thought the Chinese would object. It's proof they consider Hong Kong to be autonomous," Mr. Beaver told a Hong Kong newspaper.

Hong Kong was a British colony for 156 years but reverted to Chinese control on July 1 as a special capitalist region. The sea around Hong Kong now belongs to China, and the People's Liberation Army is responsible for defence in the territory.

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Ousted Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko (right) places his hand on his wife's arm as he arrives at his palatial villa on the Riviera in this Jan. 9 file photo. Mr. Mobutu, ousted as president of Zaire after three decades of near absolute power, died in Rabat Sunday after losing a long battle with prostate cancer (Reuter photo)

Ousted Mobutu of Zaire dies in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Mobutu Sese Seko, ousted as president of Zaire in May after three decades of near absolute power, has died in exile in Morocco after losing a long battle with prostate cancer.

The official Moroccan News Agency (MAP) said the 66-year-old ex-president died at 9.30 p.m. Sunday at Mohammed V Military Hospital in Rabat "after a long illness."

A diplomatic source said that Mobutu, a Roman Catholic, was expected to be buried in Rabat's Christian Cemetery.

However, a minister in President Laurent Kabila's government in Kinshasa, capital of what is now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo, did not rule out burial for Mobutu in his home country.

"Why shouldn't the body be repatriated?" asked Information Minister Raphael Ghenda, adding: "While he

was alive we said we were happy for him to return."

A source close to the Mobutu family in Rabat said all of his relatives had gone to the hospital from their new home in a residential area of the Moroccan capital.

Access to the military hospital is carefully controlled and a news blackout has been imposed since Mobutu was moved there on July 1.

Just days earlier he had undergone an operation for "serious bleeding complications" in the civilian Avicenne Hospital in Agdal suburb of Rabat.

King Hassan allowed him into Morocco on humanitarian grounds after Mobutu had rapidly found after his overthrow that an ex-president with a dictator's reputation rapidly loses friends.

Following the ex-president arrival in Morocco on May 23, diplomatic sources said several attempts were made to find him another host

country.

A change of government in France, where Mobutu has property and where he had earlier convalesced from treatment in Switzerland for his cancer, saw the door there close against him.

Diplomatic sources spoke of his going possibly to Portugal or South Africa but as his illness worsened it became increasingly clear he would not leave Morocco.

As cancer and a growing rebellion took hold in Zaire, Mobutu lost his grip on power which he had held virtually unchallenged for three decades.

Mobutu was one of Africa's longest-serving strongmen who used the cold war to cement his hold on power, as the West and Soviet Union vied for influence in Africa and control of Zaire's uranium and other minerals.

He enjoyed virtually absolute power since a 1965 coup, riding the tidal wave of

popular support for multi-party democracy that swept around the world with the collapse of Soviet-style communism in the late 1980s.

He consistently put off, and then accepted for 1997, multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections.

"I am perhaps the only dictator in the world who is calling for such elections," he once told a television interviewer.

But his cancer and a Tutsi-dominated revolt backed by neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Angola combined against him and his rapacious, demoralised and divided armed forces crumbled before a determined rebel advance.

On May 16, 1997, he fled his capital Kinshasa, one day before Mr. Kabila's alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo marched in to claim victory after a seven-month civil war.

Cambodian king rejects calls to abdicate and stand for election

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Cambodia's revered King Norodom Sihanouk Monday said he would not heed calls from opponents of his troubled country's new regime to abdicate and run in upcoming elections scheduled for May.

"I have done my time," the ailing 74-year-old monarch said in an interview with a team from his monthly bulletin released by the palace.

"My near future is the approach or visit of death and not a return to the political arena," the king said, asked about the appeals by opponents of strongman Hun Sen to "present himself as a candidate."

He said if he did abdicate, as he has long hinted at doing, it would not be for political reasons, "but to exile myself in an accepting country."

One reason for abdicating would be if any efforts were made to eliminate Cambodia's constitutional monarchy, he said.

In the interview, King Sihanouk lamented the situation in Cambodia since Mr. Hun Sen, the powerful second prime minister, effectively ousted his son, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in July.

A new first prime minister, Ung Huot, has since been appointed by parliament with Mr. Hun Sen's blessing.

With a resigned air, King Sihanouk noted that his effort to mediate peace talks between Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh had failed because Mr. Hun Sen had rejected it.

Asked if he was bitter about the rejection, the king responded: "Mr. Hun Sen is in the habit of rejecting various of my proposals related to Cambodia's problems. I am used to (Mr. Hun Sen's) rejections. Therefore I am not bitter."

Since the prince was deposed, both he and Mr. Hun Sen have been lobbying the king for his support, a situation that has clearly discouraged the monarch.

Although the king says he still recognises his son as "legal" first prime minister, his decision to return home from medical treatment in China after the prince's ouster and his actions since appear to have tilted in favour of Mr. Hun Sen in the eyes of some.

In the interview, King Sihanouk said he was saddened to hear that his popularity among Cambodians abroad had declined in the past few days but said he was "resigned" to

be "killed between the hammer of the anti-Hun Sen resistance and the anvil of Mr. Hun Sen's followers."

"But I take much solace in the fact that millions of Cambodians (in Cambodia) appreciate my return to live among them and directly serve our little people."

He added he was "happy" to learn from his interviewers that Prince Ranariddh's popularity had increased among Cambodians abroad even if his own had declined.

Meanwhile Cambodia's ousted Prince Ranariddh has complained to his father, King Sihanouk, about a letter the king signed, naming premier Hun Sen as one of Cambodia's representatives at the U.N. General Assembly.

The prince, in a letter to his father released by the palace Monday, compared Mr. Hun Sen to the notorious former Khmer Rouge guerrilla leader, Pol Pot. Mr. Hun Sen ousted the prince, with whom he had shared power, in early July.

The prince also said Foreign Minister Ung Huot was a Hun Sen puppet. Mr. Ung Huot was appointed with Mr. Hun Sen's backing to replace the prince as first prime minister after Prince Ranariddh was toppled.

"It is extremely unjust that our people will be represented at the world assembly by a blood-thirsty prime minister, 'Pol Pot II', and a puppet," Prince Ranariddh said in his letter, dated Sept. 6.

Prince Ranariddh's "blood-thirsty" charge apparently referred to a U.N. human rights report released last week giving details of the killings of at least 41 of Prince Ranariddh's supporters in the aftermath of the Hun Sen takeover. Last week King Sihanouk signed a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, nominating Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and First Prime Minister Ung Huot as members of Cambodia's official delegation to the U.N. General Assembly session later this month.

But King Sihanouk, 74, has made clear his disapproval of Hun Sen's power grab.

The king, who was in Beijing for medical treatment at the time, said he would not block the new government's work but would not sign any government decrees or official documents though acting head of state, Chea Sim could do so.

Fierce fighting grips Sri Lanka, toll hits 16

COLOMBO (AFP) —

Fierce fighting erupted in northeast Sri Lanka Monday as Tamil Tiger guerrillas staged a major attack, leaving seven civilians and seven of their own fighters dead, the Defence Ministry said.

Gunmen of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out a pre-dawn assault in the village of Kalyanapura but troops repulsed the attack, a ministry statement said.

It said the attack was intended against civilians but military reinforcements came to man the army facil-

ity at Kalyanapura and beat off the rebels.

"Seven civilians were killed and five were wounded due to terrorist fire," the ministry said, adding that a search operation led to the recovery of seven bodies of guerrillas along with seven automatic guns.

Four soldiers were seriously wounded, the ministry said, adding that a major search operation was underway in the area following the battle.

There was no immediate word from the LTTE about the latest fighting.

"There was a heavy

exchange of mortar bombs," a local official said. "The army was ready for an attack, so they were able to repulse it quite effectively."

The military camp is in the area to protect civilians of the majority Sinhalese community who have been targets of previous rebel attacks.

The Defence Ministry has also accused the LTTE of violating the two-day ceasefire agreed to allow the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to carry out a nation-wide polio immunisation programme.

"This is a clear case of

violation of the period tranquillity declared by the government," the ministry said in a statement over the weekend.

In other violence, troops killed two rebels and recovered hand grenades and small arms, the Defence Ministry said.

The renewed fighting came two days after the temporary truce between the two sides collapsed with the Tigers killing three soldiers and wounding two others in the east of the country Saturday.

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State of judiciary calls for reforms

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED chief of the Higher Court of Justice, Judge Farouq Kilani, may leave his mark on the country's judicial system should he succeed in convincing his fellows in the judiciary to cooperate in reforming the court system. However, no judge, including the president of the highest court in the land, can effect the kind of changes that are necessary to modernise the judiciary unless there is a genuine political will to do so. Reforming the justice system, as Judge Kilani has proposed, calls for profound changes to existing laws, regulations and practices.

It is suggested in this context that a blue-ribbon judicial committee be formed to identify the problems and bottle necks in the justice system and recommend corrective measures and policies. There are several dimensions to the woes of the judiciary that call for the joint and coordinated efforts of all concerned parties. Since our judiciary seems to be too introverted than warranted for a fledgling system, there is no harm in looking elsewhere for guidance, especially in nations where the judiciary is considerably more advanced in form and substance. Looking over our shoulders only to the extent of the Arab fringes does not seem to be enough to satisfy the national quest for a thoroughly revamped judiciary. There is no escape from the conclusion that the Jordanian judiciary needs new blood in order to begin the process of introducing modern technology and standards for the administration of justice. Unfortunately, most of our legal minds operating within the system have had their education and experience in Arab capitals, where the standard is not really superior to our own. In our estimation this remains the crux of the problem.

As for the issue of establishing a constitutional court, we would like to point out that no judicial system is worthy of its name if it is precluded from making judicial pronouncements on constitutional matters. Whether we need to amend the basic law to fill this serious judicial void or expand the mandate of the existing courts of the land so that they may rule on the constitutionality of legislations, the country cannot afford any further delay in this regard. When the Higher Court of Justice in a recent verdict ruled that the extradition treaty with the U.S. was unconstitutional because its ratification process was not in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, we fail to understand why then the same court cannot go on to make judicial decisions on other "constitutional subjects."

The ever-vexing problem of the independence of the judiciary obviously calls for an overhaul of the laws governing the appointment and promotion of judges. It has been repeatedly charged that the Judicial Council, which appoints and promotes judges, is at least in part controlled by the government. We believe this particular issue should be the subject of a parliamentary debate at a future date when the new Parliament convenes. Other nations have found it fit to allow the legislature to scrutinise the appointment of supreme court judges, as is the case in the U.S. This procedure may or may not be suited for Jordan. Other safeguards could be introduced to widen the safety net for the designation of qualified and impartial judges. There are many ingenious ways to enhance the independence of the judiciary that the country may wish to adopt. Being the central issue in the administration of justice, greater efforts can still be adopted to remove all semblance of interference, whether real or imaginary.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm said Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement, should not have carried out the suicide attack in Jerusalem while the blockade was still on because the Israelis found in it an excuse to maintain the clamp down on the Palestinian territories imposed after the previous Jerusalem attack. Riham Farra said that the attacks have harmed the Palestinians more than it did Israel because the U.S. secretary of state who is coming to the region this week will focus her attention on ways to ensure Israel's security rather than discuss ways to revive the peace process. The writer said at the diplomatic level, Hamas gave prominence to the Palestine national dialogue, projecting Yasser Arafat as embracing Hamas leaders, thus giving the Israelis the pretext to present Mr. Arafat to the world as instigating Hamas to carry out its suicide attacks. Since the Palestinian lands were hermetically closed by the Israelis, it is reasonable to believe that the suicide bombers came from inside Israel or from abroad and, therefore, Mr. Arafat is not to blame as he is in control of the self-rule areas, said the writer. He urged Hamas not to act in a manner that would embarrass the Palestinian leader who is struggling to serve the national cause.

The View from Fourth Circle

The messy landscapes and leaderships in Madeleine Albright's journey

By Rami G. Khouri

UNITED STATES Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East this week has raised many expectations about a possible American initiative to rescue the Arab-Israeli peace process from its current precarious condition. She has little chance of success if there is no change in the current attitudes, policies and behaviour of the three main protagonists — the Palestinians, the Israelis and the United States. For both the landscapes and the leaderships in question suffer from terrible shortcomings.

The Middle Eastern human landscape is drenched in the blood of terrified and angry Arab and Israeli civilians. The political landscape is contorted by narrow fears and deep suspicions. The diplomatic landscape is skewed by huge imbalances. The military landscape is defined by many deaths but no victories. The psychological landscape is scarred by the primacy of the thirst for unilateral revenge over the quest for shared fairness and equal security and rights.

The leaderships are equally thin. The United States has quietly abdicated its moral and political responsibility as the would-be impartial linchpin of a peace process that promises equal rights and security to all concerned; it usually and often seems to side with Israel on the most contentious and emotional issues of the day (such as the primacy of security or the continued growth of Israeli settlements). The Israeli leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu has been exposed on virtually every single front as a fraudulent band of brazen amateurs who have led the Israeli people further away from both security and peace, and who should never have tried to transcend their only real skills as part-time, impromptu performers with Bernard Shaw on CNN. The Palestinian leadership similarly flounders in its own mediocrities, caught in that monstrous chasm between the promise and mirage of Oslo, suffering the inevitable consequences of autocracy and hesitation and, finally, paying the heavy cost of trying on its own to negotiate peace with Israel.

For years to the week after the Oslo accords were signed in September 1993, we continue to approach the worst case scenario that many had feared — the parallel ascendancy of the Likud-led militant right in Israel and of the Hamas-led militant right in Palestine. This does not detract from the historic promise and the initial tangible fruits of the Oslo process: Israeli-Palestinian mutual national recognition, some Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian lands, some Palestinian cooperation with Israel in economic, security and other issues and some gradual Arab-Israeli economic and cultural integration throughout the wider Middle East.

These incremental achievements have now stalled, though, and Oslo-style progress based on mutual gains is officially suspended. The sensible symmetry of reasonable compromise leading to patient, common progress has been replaced by a new, nasty

dynamic of mutual distrust, anger, fear and punitive retribution. The symbols of the new symmetry of death and denial are there for anyone who wishes to see them as Mrs. Albright should do this week.

For example, there is very strong symmetry between the number of Israelis killed in Palestine, Israel and southern Lebanon and the number of Palestinian homes that have been demolished by the Israeli government. The symmetry comprises announcements this week by the Israeli government that it would not make any further withdrawals from Palestinian lands until it saw better security cooperation from the Palestinian National Authority, and by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that it would restrict security cooperation with Israel until Israel fulfilled the Oslo agreements' provisions for further Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian lands (as stated Sunday by Mohammad Dahlan, chief of PNA preventive security in Gaza). It sees repeated Israeli closures of the occupied territories, and counter Palestinian boycotts of Israeli products. It sees Israel demanding that Yasser Arafat, the PNA, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) crack down on Hamas violence and terror against Israelis, while Palestinians argue that Israel itself was unable to prevent terror when it ruled the West Bank and Gaza in the years when Hamas was allowed to build its infrastructure and grow into an organisation that Israel hoped would counter the strength of the PLO.

Israelis say they cannot talk peace with Arabs who indirectly assist terror attacks against Israeli civilians in the cities of Israel, and Arabs say they cannot make peace with Israeli governments that fund, arm and protect militias in south Lebanon that send artillery shells crashing into Arab civilians in the cities of Lebanon. Israelis and Americans argue there is no "moral equivalence" between the consequences of Arab and Israeli policies; Arabs argue that this is not a philosophy lesson about morality, and that there is full and absolute symmetry between the political and human consequences of Arab and Israeli policies; both lead to suffering, terror, death and a rising cycle of patently senseless violence without any meaningful gains.

In this cycle, the United States is a principal party, not an impartial outsider. The United States has played a rather ambivalent diplomatic role, pushing but also waiting for the Arabs and Israelis to resolve their main differences; simultaneously, the U.S. provides much cash and an ironclad security commitment to Israel's military superiority over the combined Arab states. The two roles — the protector of Israel and the impartial mediator of the fair Arab-Israeli peace — are clearly incompatible. The current crisis has highlighted this incompatibility, and Mrs. Albright's visit has put big bright red, white and blue lights around it for all to see, from miles away.

If Mrs. Albright is coming to the region to perpetuate this

incompatibility, she will be received politely and will go home politely, another confused and failed mediator. This need not be the case. The United States can and should play the role of a truly impartial mediator. Mrs. Albright has indicated that Washington knows the road map for such a journey. Her important policy speech on Arab-Israeli peace making last month reaffirmed principles and core elements that few would contest — direct negotiations for just, lasting and comprehensive peace, based on the land-for-peace principle, U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and an avoidance of unilateral acts that predetermine final status issues, aiming to achieve real security for and normal relations among all the concerned parties, and the "legitimate political rights" of the Palestinian people.

The climax of her speech was to not the "urgent and important" need to go beyond Oslo's incremental approach of interim agreements, by accelerating the permanent status negotiations. She said that she would use her trip to the region "to improve the climate for negotiations, and to discuss the procedural and substantive aspects of the permanent status issues."

This approach is sensible in theory, but hopelessly romantic in the current circumstances. The solution is not to discard romanticism and hope, but to change and improve the current circumstances. Arabs and Israelis alike, since Madrid in 1991 and Oslo in September 1993, have signalled their strong desire to make peace based on equality and fairness. If the United States wishes to continue playing the mediator's role in order to achieve lasting peace, it must actively demonstrate its ability to work for the equal national and security rights of Israelis and Arabs alike, in a fashion considerably more substantial than the occasional journey into the fractured and violent landscapes of the Middle East. When Israeli security is shaken, the United States moves and moves decisively. When Arab rights are threatened, the United States speaks and speaks often. The gap is too wide and too frequent to allow the U.S. to maintain its credentials as a credible mediator; a superpower to be courted, hosted and feared — yes; a credible mediator — not really.

The United States remains, like aspects of our landscapes, an unstable and failed mediator. It knows and articulates the principles and core elements of peace making; it must still show us a desire to translate them into realities on the ground, just as Arabs and Israelis have shown their determination to travel this hard road since Madrid and Oslo. Until this happens — and we hope that it does happen — Mrs. Albright's trip and others like it will remain marginal and cruel reminders of an unjust and violent past, rather than harbingers of a better future. We shall soon find out in which direction she and her government are moving.

Israeli civilian settlements in the occupied Arab territories violates international law

By La'ayy Minwer
Al-Rimawi

Following is the first of a series of articles and excerpts from work due for publication in the forthcoming issue of the 1997 Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, London, UK, dealing with the issue of Israeli civilian settlements in light of recent political developments. The author, who contributed the article to the Jordan Times, is a law doctoral researcher in regulation of Arab securities markets and a Tutorial Fellow and part-time teacher of international law at the London School of Economics, University of London.

THE ARAB region, especially after the cold war, has been an unfortunate victim of super-power rivalries. The feeble and alien nation-state system (which was arbitrarily imposed on the region during and after World War I) has also proved to be vulnerable and intrinsically unstable. For its part, international law (through its one-sided implementation in the region) has traditionally been completely subservient to the parochial expediency of the Great Powers. However, the concept of international law as independent and indivisible has been on trial in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Yet, sadly, one remains uneasy at the variable and with which the United Nations has sought to implement its resolutions there. Its laxity in enforcing an equitable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, together with political retarding tactics excused by many parties, has not been conducive to capping the daily encountered regional suffering.

The continuation of illegal and unbridled Israeli practices in the occupied territories has almost but doused all hopes which have ensued following the signing of the Oslo accords. For despite the post-Oslo era, Israel still violates a host of international obligations. This includes violating the following international treaties: the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention which Israel ratified in July 1951; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which it ratified in August 1991; the Convention of the Child which it ratified in August 1991; the International Covenant on Economic, Social

and Cultural Rights, which it ratified in October 1991 and the Convention against Torture which it ratified in November 1991.

Needless to say, the pursuit of such blatantly illegal practices as part of Israel's national policy (or indeed of any other state's) not only jeopardises the fundamental fabric of humanitarian international law, it also embarrasses the civilisation approaching the new millennium.

The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on private and public lands on the occupied Arab territories is also not only unlawful under international law; it renders genuine peace between Israel and the Palestinians no more than a farce. For despite solutions, like the binational state, the concept of land for peace still lies at the heart of any workable settlement which envisages institutionalising a just regional order. Yet Israel has, regrettably, persistently flouted international rules proscribing erecting civilian settlements and never heeded the condemnatory statements of the international community.

Although the former Labour government followed a relatively restrained policy vis-à-vis constructing new settlements, the Netanyahu administration has vigorously been conducting expansionist policies which aim at bolstering existing settlements and substantially augmenting new ones. It is also widely believed that in May 1995, the Labour government backed away from confiscating lands in East Jerusalem in order not to harm the peace process. When his term came, Netanyahu lifted a four-year-old freeze on settlements construction which had been put in place by the Labour government which, itself, was less than completely scrupulous in banning all settlements activities in the occupied territories.

The late January's "National Agreement Regarding the Negotiations on the Permanent Settlement" with the Palestinians, or the Belin-Eitan agreement, represents a convergence of policies between the two parties. Netanyahu has allocated further \$350 million for constructing new settlements, \$33 million of which will be allocated for settlement expansion on the Golan Heights and Jordan Valley,

including constructing new 300 units on the Golan. It was also reported that in July 1997 alone, Netanyahu asked the Knesset for extra \$16 million, in addition to \$26 million which had already been agreed upon a week earlier, for settlement-related activities.

Peace Now Movement in August 1997 also warned of new plans to build and expand new settlements, the cost of which would exceed \$2.25 billion. Needless to say, private funding does not often feature in Israel's official accounting of its expenditure on settlements activities in the occupied territories.

The continuing Israeli provocative settlement activities are taking place amidst a wider drive aimed at grabbing more Arab lands. Current reports refer to substantial expropriations of Palestinian Arab lands in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Beit Nubala, Betonia, Keron, Baq'at, Bani Zeid, Wadi Kaddom, Shu'fat, Beit Hamina, Selwan, Wadi Rahat, etc. Israel also continues to plan erecting new housing units, such as the new 500 units in Nablus and Bethlehem (278 houses in Ariel, the largest settlement near Nablus and 222 in Alon Shebut, south-west of Bethlehem). Yet, despite this drive, it is widely estimated that an average of 25 per cent of the units inside settlements remain vacant.

Recent American government reports have also supported the view that significant numbers of units in many Israeli settlements remain unoccupied, especially the ones contiguous to Palestinian population centres. Agence France Press also reported in August 1997 that head of Peace Now, Mossi Raz, after touring 126 West Bank settlements stated that at least 3,500 existing houses were empty.

However, Arab and official Palestinian response to this ongoing colonisation of Arab territories has been less than adequate. While official Arab reactions have not exceeded the usual well-rehearsed barrage of futile rhetoric, PNA's response was through summary (and occasionally extra-judicial) killings against the so-called land dealers. The efficacy of private pan-Arab projects which aim at enhancing Palestinian constructions in a

bid to halt Israeli settlements, like the Jerusalem Development and Investment Company, is still to be seen.

Statistics on Jewish immigration to Palestine

Studies and statistics about Jewish immigration to Palestine are numerous and often conflicting. However, some statistics estimate that in 1914, the Jewish population in Palestine constituted 12.3 per cent and in 1922, it recorded 11.1 per cent. Other studies point out that on June 30, 1933, the Jewish population made up 18.9 per cent of the total population and after three years, in 1936, it rose to reach 27.7 per cent. However, it is generally believed that by the end of World War I the total population of Palestine reached 700,000 (80 per cent Muslims, 10 per cent Christians and 10 per cent Jews). In addition, it is also believed that between 1920-23 the annual average immigration to Palestine reached 8,000 and that it rose substantially between 1923-26 due to the ill treatment of Jews in Poland and immigration restrictions to the United States.

Official Zionism in this period entertained vague notions of Arab "autonomy", as opposed to accepting the already existing national and sovereign rights of the Arabs. The Zionist congresses of 1921 and 1923 charitably mentioned Palestine as a "common land". Yet, despite the influence of labour ideology on the main Zionist bodies during the 1920s and 1930s, Chaim Weizmann, who then headed the World Zionist Organisation, declared in 1930 that Palestine was envisaged as a "Jewish state in which the Arabs would enjoy full cultural and civil rights, but that the Arabs were expected to turn to neighbouring countries for expressing their aspirations in terms of a state."

As to Jewish presence in Jerusalem, it was estimated that in 1874, there were 300 Jews only. However, the Jewish presence in Jerusalem became felt and of a more Zionist orientation in 1881, following racial policies conducted in Russia. In 1910, the Jewish population reached 45,000, but this number decreased to 26,000 during World War I. In 1946, Jerusalem had 205,220 inhabi-

tants, made up of 105,000 Jews, 60,000 Muslims and 45,000 Christians. In 1947, Jews numbered 97,000. With regard to the suburbs of Jerusalem, Arabs constituted 62 per cent (Muslims and Christians) and Jews 38 per cent. Jews controlled no more than 5,000 square kilometres of Jerusalem towards the end of the British Mandate. In new Jerusalem Arabs controlled 54 per cent of the lands, while Jews controlled 26 per cent (public lands constituted 17 per cent and the municipality controlled 3 per cent).

Three weeks after occupying Arab East Jerusalem, in 1967, Israel annexed 70 square kilometres, including 28 small Arab villages. Upon Israel's occupation of Arab East Jerusalem, a report submitted to the secretary general of the U.N. estimated that the city had 700,000 residents. They were subdivided into 40 per cent, or 28,000, in the Old City and 60 per cent, or 42,000, outside its immediate perimeters (81 per cent Muslims, 8 per cent Catholic Christians, 6.5 per cent Orthodox Christians, 2.4 per cent American Christians and 2.1 per cent other denominations). Distribution of property in West Jerusalem in 1948 stood at 40 per cent owned by Palestinians, 34 per cent owned by Waqf, churches, and government of Palestine, and 26 per cent owned by Jews.

Since the Six Day war, 23,500 dunams have been expropriated from Palestinians under the 1943 Land Ordinance: Acquisition for Public Purposes. In addition, since 1967, only around 12 per cent of new constructions were owned by Palestinians in Jerusalem's Arab sector, representing a ratio of 2,200 apartments for Israelis to only 230 for Palestinians. Moreover, on lands expropriated from Palestinians, 60,000 housing units were built for Jews while none whatsoever was built for Arabs. However, with regard to land control in Arab East Jerusalem since 1967, 37 per cent of the land has been expropriated for public use, 8.5 per cent has been designated for expropriation for expanding settlements, 44 per cent is Green Area, on which it is not allowed to build, and only 13 per cent remains for Arab neighbourhoods.

LETTERS

No need for gory photos

To the Editor:

I AM writing to express my shock at the series of pictures published on the front page of the Jordan Times on Sept. 3, 1997. I do not think it necessary to describe these pictures which, I am sure, had many of the readers' stomachs churning.

I only want to question the motive behind publishing these images. I surely hope that the Jordan Times is not taking the line of other sensational publications in pursuit of higher distribution figures. I am pretty sure that showing human body parts, blood and anguished victims of a suicide bombing, will not help improve the ever deteriorating situation of the Middle East and will surely play very little part in changing people's convictions and hardened attitudes.

I was doubly shocked to see that on the same day, another newspaper showed an equally horrific front page coloured picture of a Lebanese soldier holding the decapitated head of a killed Israeli soldier.

Whatever the reasons behind such incidents, and regardless of one's stand point, I maintain that publishing such pictures is tasteless, disturbing and obnoxious, not to mention that these papers are viewed by all members of the public, including children.

Amjad Tadros
atadros@go.com.jo

Features
Japan
with

By Enal Fadih
Sale El Fish

Climate of

Congress raises
to Jordan to \$25

Lawneh says Jord
reached understa

Netanyahu launches offe
Oslo, opposition and

Features

Japan — a leading industrial country with only its people to thank to

A day under closure — to pass or not to pass

By Emad Eddin Sabe El Eish

I PARTICIPATED in a senior class seminar organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by Nagoya International Training Centre (NITC) for a month in July and August.

The subject of the seminar was small and medium industry development. The seminar was attended by 13 participants from as many countries around the world and took place in three stages. The first stage implied looking at Japan's experience in developing small and medium enterprises (SMEs); the second was devoted to visiting more than 30 plants, Aichi prefectures departments, banks, companies and cooperatives; and the last was to look at the participants' experience in developing SMEs.

A visitor to different Japanese enterprises does not need long time to discover that the leading role Japan plays among industrial countries is due to the Japanese themselves, to their management style of industrial, financial and government enterprises.

Several factors secure Japan's worldwide industrial leadership. The unique qualities of the Japanese are the most important factors. The Japanese are characterised by the following: seriousness, loyalty and faithfulness to the enterprise; accuracy, regularity, respect for and full commitment to laws and regulations; persistence and sacrifice for the sake of the enterprise and its reputation. Moreover, at the Japanese enterprises, there is continuous research and development and a lot of investment towards that purpose; deep commitment to measurements and standardisation; monitoring of quality control; and environment protection, cleanliness and pollution prevention. Perhaps more important, consumers are loyal to their national products.

The unlimited support of domestic governments to SMEs can be added as an important factor to their leadership position and their advanced products.

The support is not only financial though. The SMEs are also provided with diagnosis, guidance, information about internal and external markets, industrial estates, products research and development, cooperatives and their peculiar system, industrial promotion, credit guarantee, equipment and machinery leasing and specialised financial institutions.

It is worth mentioning that specialisation is a very decisive factor in the improvement and development of Japanese products. It is hard to find one single factory that produces a complete product. The production of a single product is distributed among several plants. This helps make the quality of the product advanced. Toyota, for instance, a very large company that produced more than 3 million vehicles in 1996, for example, has around 31,000 subcontractors. This usually leads to a sophisticated computer system for accounting and inventory, and confidential designs and moulds of vehicles parts.

Unlike most industrialists around the world, the Japanese producers are only really happy when they can sell their products on the domestic markets, and not abroad. They feel that penetration of external markets is easier due to the standards of their products. The Japanese culture and loyalty to the motherland are the reasons.

The difference between the Japanese experience in

By Elias Zananiri

NOT EVEN journalists, shouted one of the Israeli soldiers manning the army roadblock at the entrance to Ramallah, half a kilometre away from the first Palestinian National Authority roadblock. The soldier said strict orders were issued by the defence establishment in Israel to minimise movement out of the PNA areas. The rule is you are allowed through without any delay, said the voice at the other end of the telephone when I called the army spokesman's office asking for clarification.

But for soldiers on the ground, things were completely different. They seemingly have their own set of regulations. "We have no instructions to let you through. Turn around and go back," said the officer as he was interrupted by coded messages on his radio.

Only holders of West Bank identity cards were allowed into Ramallah. Those who had made their way via taxis or cars that had Israeli yellow licence plates were ordered out of the car and told to walk their way to Ramallah.

Obviously no cars were waiting at the other side of what looked like a border area between two separate entities. And walking down the road under the burning sun heat was not making life easier.

A U.N.-donated garbage truck bearing U.N. licence plates was not allowed through either; people in the refugee camps in the Ramallah area will have to collect their own

garbage, it seems. A car with French plates was allowed through after a brief argument between its French passengers who work for one of the non-governmental organisations in the West Bank. A third car was made to wait by the roadblock until a vehicle from within the Palestinian side arrived. It had a boy who needed medical treatment in Jerusalem and whose departure was allowed after intensive talks with the liaison office of the joint coordination committees of the PNA and Israel.

A girl in her early twenties came out of a taxi and walked towards the soldiers. She wasn't any lucky. Taking her Danish passport out, Maria Jawad told the soldiers she had a number of urgent errands to run in Ramallah. She was not allowed through and a tough argument, accompanied by screaming, followed.

"I was angered by the way he screamed and yelled at me," she said about the soldier, adding that the way he asked about the reason for going to Ramallah was so humiliating she decided not to answer him politely.

"Who, for God's sake, does he think himself to be? I have my passport along with my visa. All my documents are proper and there is no reason on earth why I should be barred from Ramallah."

After tough negotiations with the soldiers, she decided to return to Jerusalem; she chose to avoid a sideroad through which she could have easily infiltrated into Ramallah. "I do not want to get caught again at

Climate of fear grips Algiers districts

ALGIERS (AFP) — A climate of fear pervades parts of Algiers in the wake of a series of massacres in the city's suburbs, with the slightest suspicious incident causing a wave of panic.

Women and children Sunday were seen fleeing the scene of the latest massacre in the capital while men armed themselves with any possible weapons to fight off any more attackers.

A total of 63 civilians, including women and children, were savagely murdered with axes, swords and bullets overnight Friday in the suburb of Beni Messous, in a very poor neighbourhood known as Sidi Youssef.

Another 60 people were also wounded in the attack, the bloodiest in the capital since the Islamist uprising erupted five years ago.

Last week in the eastern suburb of Rais 98 people were killed, according to the official toll, though witnesses said the real total was up to three times higher.

From Friday the mood of terror spread from the Rais area towards the centre of Algiers. It was accentuated by the killings in Beni Messous, where Saturday night residents who thought they saw suspicious movements raised the alarm to chase away any possible attackers.

Similar events were reported in many districts of the capital as residents kept watch all night long to prevent another carnage.

Sidi Youssef and the surrounding neighbourhoods were deserted by Sunday afternoon as survivors of the slaughter fled the area.

Women and children fled in trucks, cars or on foot, while the men stayed to defend themselves armed with hatchets, hammers, knives, iron bars or bludgeons pierced with nails.

At the beginning of last week a funeral procession taking 19 victims of a mas-

U.S. Congress raises annual aid to Jordan to \$250m

(Continued from page 1)

According to the agreement, the rescheduling is in accordance with an understanding reached in May by the creditors of the Paris Club to reschedule approximately \$400 million of Jordanian debt falling due in the coming two years.

Concerning the Mideast peace process, Dr. Muasher voiced hope that the U.S. Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright's visit to the region will bear fruit.

"I don't think there is going to be an American initiative to the Middle East peace process but rather an attempt to implement the Oslo agreement," said the ambassador.

He said the final status negotiations and confidence building measures will also be on the secretary's agenda.

Tarawneh says Jordan and EU reached understanding

(Continued from page 1)

unemployment.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani left Jordan Monday on a European tour which will take them to Holland, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium.

The delegation is expected to reiterate Jordan's call for increased financial support from countries of the EU since the United States recently increased its financial aid to Jordan by \$100 million.

Dr. Tarawneh told reporters that he discussed with Spanish officials bilateral Jordanian-Spanish relations as well as a financial protocol which is expected to be signed between the two countries before the end of this year.

He added that they also discussed means to improve the balance of trade between Jordan and Spain.

Netanyahu launches offensive on Oslo, opposition and Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

Monday, raising to five the number of Israelis killed in the bombing claimed by the Izzeddine Qassam Brigade, Hamas's military wing.

Israeli officials said they had reinforced security, expecting militant groups would try to strike again during the week of Ms. Albright's visit.

"We know that in essence there is an aim of torpedoing this visit," Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told Israel radio. "What could happen is the same action — the kind of action — as happened last week."

In another development, a spokesman for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat lashed out at Israel on Monday for demanding the extradition of the Palestinian police chief on Israel's claim he ordered attacks on Jewish settlers.

"The one who should be handed over is [Israeli Justice Minister] Tsahi Hanegbi to be tried by the International Court of Justice for spreading hatred," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani told Agence France Presse.

"The statements he makes cannot come from a rational man holding a responsible position, they could only come from a gang leader," he said, adding the demand for extradition was "completely refused."

Mr. Hanegbi signed a court order Sunday demanding extradition of Palestinian police chief Ghazi Jabali on suspicion of ordering his subordinates to attack Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

Israel arrested three Palestinian policemen outside the West Bank city of Nablus, allegedly while on their way to attack a nearby settlement. A fourth suspected of planning other attacks was released in August.

In the wake of two recent multiple suicide bombings in Jerusalem, the Israelis have criticised the Palestinians for failing to do anything to prevent anti-Israeli attacks.

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Australians rejoice in Rafter's U.S. Open triumph

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia, from its prime minister to past tennis legends, acclaimed Patrick Rafter's triumph in the U.S. Open to become the country's first major singles champion for a decade.

Rafter, 24, capped a momentous fortnight when he defeated Canadian-born Briton Greg Rusedski 6-3 6-2 4-6 7-5 in the final in New York. He became the first Australian to win a Grand Slam title since Pat Cash at Wimbledon in 1987. Rafter jumped to number three on the world rankings.

He defeated Andre Agassi and Michael Chang on the way to the final.

The amiable Rafter's breakthrough victory at Flushing Meadows was Australia's first U.S. Open success since current Davis Cup captain John Newcombe in 1973.

Speaking from his Californian home, Australian tennis icon Rod Laver, the only man to win the tennis Grand Slam twice, said Rafter was achieving his potential at a later age than most tennis players.

"He's a late bloomer at 24. He's got a lot of tennis in front of him. He's just coming of age," said Laver, who won the four world majors in the same year in 1962 and 1969.

"I always believed Patrick had the capability and the potential and he certainly proved that today."

Australia's former Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser said there was no reason why Rafter could not go on and win another Grand Slam.

"He's improved so much in such a short time, he's got the world at his feet, but there's a lot more work and more water to go under the bridge," said Fraser.

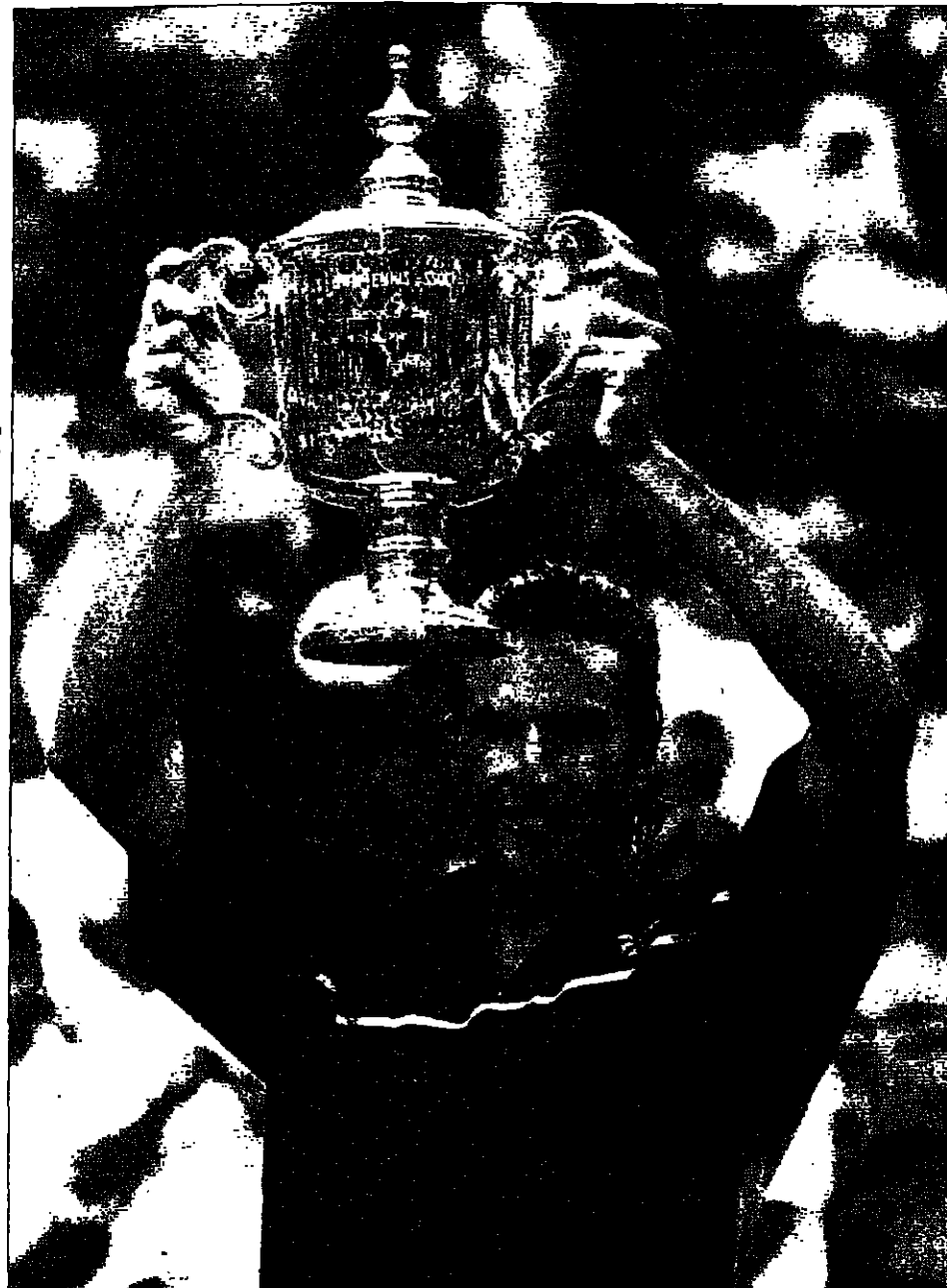
Prime Minister John Howard said Rafter's win had signalled a resurgence in Australian tennis.

"This has broken a drought of a generation in winning the U.S. Open, it's the first time since 1973," he told reporters here.

Rafter's parents, Jim and Jocelyn, flung open their large house in the northern suburbs of Brisbane to celebrate their son's triumph with well-wishers.

The Rafter family watched their son's match on television with six of their nine children. The other three family members were in the players' box in New York.

Jim Rafter said his son would swap the U.S. Open crown for a Davis Cup, praising Australian co-cap-



Australian Patrick Rafter holds the U.S. Open trophy after defeating England's Greg Rusedski to win the U.S. Open men's championship. Rafter, the first Australian to win the Open since 1973, defeated Rusedski 6-3 6-2 4-6 7-5 (Reuters photo)



Greg Rusedski from Great Britain hits a return to opponent Patrick Rafter from Australia during the men's U.S. Open final (Reuters photo)

ains, Newcombe and Tony Roche, for their input into Patrick's career.

"Pat is a typical Aussie, the Davis Cup means everything to him," Jim Rafter said. "He would sacrifice the U.S. Open to play

the Davis Cup I'm sure. I think Newk and Tony have recognised that and they have formed a great team.

"They've done a lot for Pat, particularly through the Davis Cup. The input from both of

those men can't be underestimated."

Rafter will spearhead the singles for Australia in their Davis Cup semi-final tie against the United States in Washington this month.

NEW YORK (AFP) — Martina Hingis is so good it's scary, even to her.

The 16-year-old Swiss took just 62 minutes to trample 17-year-old American Venus Williams 6-0, 6-4 Sunday to win the U.S. Open women's singles crown, her third Grand Slam title of the year.

She cemented her place as the world's No. 1 player, and picked up a \$650,000 check that took her earnings for the year past three million.

No wonder she seemed a little surprised when asked how she would improve next year.

"What can I improve?" she said. "Sometimes I ask myself. It's a little scary."

Hingis became the sixth woman to win at least three Grand Slams in a single year since the Open era began in 1968. In that time, only Australian Margaret Court and Germany's Steffi Graf have won all four of the game's major titles in one year. Court in 1970 and Graf in 1988.

Some observers, including 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert, have hinted that Hingis might not have found her rise to the top so easy if Graf had not been sidelined all year by injury.

"It's not my mistake she's not playing here," Hingis said of Graf, U.S. Open champion in 1995 and 1996.

"You know, whenever she is going to come back, she's for sure going to be always a dangerous player."

"But having Williams on the other side is not the easiest thing in the world either. Also Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles are nothing to forget about, too."

Hingis didn't have to face Seles at the U.S. Open, as the second-seeded American was upset in the quarter-finals by 11th-seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea.

Williams took care of Spirlea in the semi-finals, reaching the final in only her third Grand Slam appearance, and the



Martina Hingis from Switzerland holds the champion's trophy after she defeated American Venus Williams to win her first U.S. Open title. Hingis defeated Williams 6-0 6-4 (Reuters photo)

supremely confident Hingis had little trouble exploiting her inexperience.

In fact, even fresh from the victory ceremony Hingis recalled her semi-final French Open victory over Seles as her match of the year.

"I've never been as happy as after that match," Hingis said.

"That was kind of like more than having a victory there."

But disappointment was in store in the next round at Roland Garros, as she lost in the final to Iva Majoli of Croatia.

She regretted the one that

got away, but at least it gives her a goal for next year.

"That's the tournament I want to win the most, and I haven't won that," Hingis said. "I think I'm going to have many more years in front of me to maybe win it one time."

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A 7 8 9 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J 7 5 3 2 ♣ A 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q J 8 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with a diamond bid of two spades. What do you respond?

Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A 10 8 5 4 3 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

♠ A 7 8 9 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A 10 8 5 4 3 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with four spades. What action do you take?

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A 10 8 5 4 3 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

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Under 17 World Cup

Germany, Ghana on top after second round

CAIRO (AP) — Defending champion Ghana found its form to beat Bahrain 5-1 while Germany marched on steadily with its second straight victory at the Under-17 World Cup Sunday.

Germany, which now has six points and is on top of Group A, beat Thailand 3-0 and saw group mates Egypt and Chile tie at 1-1. They have four and 1 points respectively while Thailand has none.

In Group D, Ghana thrashed Bahrain 5-1 to top the pool with four points, and Argentina scraped past Costa Rica 1-0. Argentina also has four points, but stands below Ghana on a goal differential.

Two players were shown the red card: Ghana's Dan Quaye for illegally blocking a Bahraini attacker, and Egypt's Ashraf Abdul-Latif for tackling Chile's Jorge Guzman when he was not in possession of the ball.

Unlike their half-hearted 1-0 victory against Chile on Friday, the young Germans Sunday dominated the Thais with better organization, stamina, speed and precision, compared to Thailand's 21 fouls, Germany had only seven.

"We played at a 100 per cent but the skill levels were not the same. The Germans were more professional while we are still amateurish," said Thai coach Chanvit Polchevin.

On Monday, the United States will take on Brazil while Oman will clash with Austria in Group C matches. New Zealand will meet Mexico and Mali will play Spain in Group B matches.

Germany's Sebastian Diesler opened the account by turning a free kick into a goal in the 26th minute of the first half.

A 17,000-strong Egyptian



Egypt's Hany Zakaria (R) tries to get away from Chile's Alonso Zuniga's grip during a FIFA Under-17 World Championship match. The teams drew 1-1 (Reuters photo)

crowd rooted for Thailand because a Thai victory would have improved Egypt's chances of qualifying in the quarterfinals.

The partisan crowd, however, began cheering for the Germans in the second half in recognition of their superior talents.

Germany's second goal came in the 62nd minute when Sebastian Kehl kicked in a header pass, the third goal was scored by Steffen Hofman in the 82nd minute.

Ghana 5, Bahrain 1: At port Said, Godwin Ashitey atram scored twice to seal the victory for his side.

In contrast to its scoreless draw against Argentina on Friday, Ghana performed as a closely-knit team to overwhelm the Bahraini defence from the start.

Atram scored the first goal in the fifth minute of the first half, while teammate Aziz Ansah followed

in the eighth.

In the second half, Atram pushed again into the Bahrain penalty box and drilled home the third goal in the 51st minute. Awule Quaye scored in the 77th minute and Wisdom Abbey in the 81st minute.

Bahrain's only goal came in the 71st minute by Yaser Amer Sa'ad who powered the ball in from outside the penalty area.

Egypt 1, Chile 1: The match in Cairo was marked by bad passes and infrequent attacks on each other's goals.

Egypt's first goal came in the 35th minute when Mohammad Eid, ran all the way from the Egyptian side toward the Chilean goal, evaded Chile's Christian Alvarez near the penalty area and sent a cross from the left, which captain Ashraf Saleh booted into the net.

Chile equalized in the

68th minute when Manuel Villalobos captured a long pass from the half line and ran through an unguarded Egyptian territory to shoot from point-blank range.

Egypt failed to convert any of the six corners it got while Chile was awarded two corners, which also were wasted.

Argentina 1, Costa Rica, 0: In Port Said, Luciano Galletti curled a free kick around the wall and into the corner of the net in the 24th minute, giving Argentina the victory.

Costa Rica executed its plan of using a tight defence and counter-attack strategy until the foul which set up the free kick.

Coch Armando Chacon said his players were superior, applied the strategy well and blocked all the attacks of the Argentinians. He attributed the loss to his team's lack of international experience.

Only 35 per cent of donations collected so far for soccer team

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) has promised it will fulfil the wishes of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah to Jordan's national soccer team by rewarding them with donations collected following the team's gold medal win at the Pan Arab Games.

After the team's historic win, donations pledged had reached up to JD150,000 but only 35 per cent has so far been collected. The federation is trying his best to collect the money left from donors.

"We are trying our best to collect the money so we can give it to the players," JSF Vice President Dr. Saleh Irsheidat Monday told the Jordan Times.

He said the amount collected so far will be given to the players at a special ceremony to thank them for their efforts and dedication.

"A JD1000 reward will be handed to team members and officials," he said. "The rest of the amount will be completed when the donors fulfil their pledges," he added.

Jordan Television announced the names of donors to the

national soccer team after a stunning performance at the Pan Arab Games which were held in Beirut July 12-27 and in which they took the gold medal after beating Syria in the final match 1-0.

Reports said that some players are not showing up for the national team's training until they receive the complete amount promised.

"Some new players will be added to the lineup to take part in the championship," Irsheidat said.

The national team will be leaving to Libya on September 20 for an international championship which was postponed on the request of one of the participating teams. That leaves the teams with only ten days to prepare.

"The federation will call the team for training after the Premier League's fifth week concludes Wednesday," JSF Technical Committee Chairman Dr. Bassam Haron told the Jordan Times.

He explained that when the team was regrouped last week the timing was inappropriate for the players to start training because of the league matches which have been put on hold until the national team returns from Libya on Sept. 28.

Handball federation cancels women's participation in Tunisia tourney

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After three months of training, the Kingdom's national women's handball team has withdrawn from participation in the Sept. 9-15 Arab Championship in Tunisia.

The team has just returned from a five-day visit to Syria where they failed to win in three friendlies in preparation for the event in which Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia had confirmed participation.

Sources said the championship might be postponed because of the small number of competing teams.

Explaining the Jordan Handball Federation's (JHF) decision to cancel participation chairman Sari Hamdan said: "Due to lack of match experience we are considered as beginners in comparison with other teams competing in the tournament,"

he said adding that even Syria who beat Jordan in six matches had withdrawn.

"Our team still needs a lot of train-

ing and more games," he added.

Syria won the first match 40-17, the second 43-19, and the third 31-17.

The Syrian team had also won three matches in Amman earlier last month.

"The matches had positive results. We were able to improve our teams' standard, we also improved our defence style. Even though we lost all matches the team improved from one match to another," Hamdan said.

"Losing is not the issue here, teams always lose at the beginning, but the aim is to make use of our loss and gain experience from such games."

Hamdan said these matches were held as trial matches for the newly regrouped Jordanian team in order to gain match experience and to better the coach's awareness of our players and their promising talents.

Dr. Hamdan said the team is comprised of young players with an average of 19 year of age.

JHF sources said the women's

team will be taking part in further tournaments scheduled every three months after the JHF signed a protocol with the Syrian Federation.

Dr. Hamdan noted that in order to achieve better playing standards, the JHF will hold further tournaments with neighbouring Arab countries like Iraq, Lebanon and Syria.

"We will also organise local tournaments especially after the number of women's handball teams increased to four, which in turn would help increase and intensify competition."

"We will try to upgrade our efforts in order to provide the best for our teams and prepare them properly," Hamdan added.

He said the men's coach will also train the women's team, and opportunities for both women's and men's teams will be equal. "We hope the ministry of culture and youth would back us up and help us financially," Dr. Hamdan stated.

Pole vaulters shine as Gunnell signs off

GATESHEAD, England (AFP) — Pole vaulters Maksim Tarasov and Nick Buckfield were the only competitors to conquer the cold and windy conditions which ruined any record attempts on the track in Sunday's Grand Prix Two athletics meeting here.

Tarasov, the 1992 Olympic champion from Russia, deservedly won with a clearance of 5.90 metres, Buckfield being rewarded for his concentration in the three-and-a-half-hour competition with a British record of 5.75m.

As the 9,000 Gateshead crowd gave Sally Gunnell a magnificent send-off after an illustrious international career extending over a decade, both Tarasov and Buckfield entertained them with a skilful display.

They defied the winds in Tyneside's International Stadium with Buckfield, from Crawley, raising his year-old record by four centimetres.

Otherwise, the 20 Olympic and world medalists who gathered in the last Grand Prix meeting before next weekend's final in Fukuoka merely went through the motions, pushing their tired bodies after a long summer season as quickly as they could.

Tony Jarrett may not have made the world championships 110m hurdles final where Colin Jackson captured the silver medal, but the Londoner has enjoyed a satisfying winning streak against the Welshman and triumphed for the ninth successive time.

Jarrett achieved his victory in 13.25secs even though his rival, who finished in 13.32, appeared to have a flier from his blocks.

Former double Olympic champion and ex-world record-holder Roger Kingdom was third in 13.53.

The north-east has always been a lucky venue for Paula Radcliffe but her successes have normally been at her speciality cross-

country where she gained the world silver medal earlier this year.

Radcliffe, so often outspurred this summer by faster finishers on the Grand Prix circuit, finally did herself some justice when producing a strong enough surge in the final straight to win the 3,000m in 9min 03.93secs ahead of Kenya's world 10,000m champion Sally Barsosio.

Dalton Grant brushed aside the tiredness of a long season, winning the high jump with a clearance of 2.20m ahead of Olympic champion Charles Austin of the United States.

On his home track Jonathan Edwards lost for a third successive time to British No. 2 triple jumper Francis Ageyesong, whose opening jump of 16.73m was good enough to keep him ahead of the world record holder, whose best was 16.59m.

The night was round off in style by Gunnell, who pulled down the curtain on her career by running the glory leg in a bizarre mixed 4 x 200m relay which included athletes such as

discus thrower Robert Weir, javelin star Raymond Hecht and Jonathan Edwards.

Immediately after the race ex-Great Britain captain Gunnell, the former world and Olympic champion over 400 metres hurdles and one-time world record-holder, was cornered by Michael Aspel of the This is Your Life television programme.

"It was great fun, and I want to thank everyone tonight for joining in the fun at the end," she said.

"It has been an incredibly enjoyable career for me and I have achieved everything I wanted from the sport but now time has to move on."

"I can't believe my career all those many years of training have come to an end — I'm going to miss it all."

"It is just a perfect end for me in front of these the best fans. I had trained for three or four days to be fresh for this final night."

Vacancy

Part-Time Development Assistant

Diplomatic Mission in Amman wishes to recruit a part-time Development Assistant. The successful applicant will be required to work three-days a week (a total of 21 working hours), both undertaking desk work and field travel. The job involves a variety of administrative support tasks, including assistance in processing of project proposals, project monitoring, report writing, maintenance of basic accounts, and maintenance of databases. Candidates with the following skills and qualifications are invited to apply for this post:

- Excellent administrative and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively within a team.
- Experience in field work and readiness to undertake field visits all over Jordan.
- Good IT skills: Familiarity with Word Processing on Microsoft Word, Excel and Access is a plus.
- Basic familiarity with accounting procedures.
- Previous Development-related work experience is an asset.
- Fluency in both Arabic and English.

Please send your CV to the following address:
Job Application: Development Assistant
P.O. Box 6062
Amman, Jordan

The closing date for applications is 18 September 1997.

Irish rider dies

BLenheim, England (AFP) — Irish rider Sam Moore died following a fall from his horse while competing in the Blenheim Horse Trials here on Sunday. The 35-year-old Moore was injured when his horse Damagh Rock rolled on him in the fall at the 19th of the 30 cross-country fences during the day's speed and endurance phase. Moore, from County Londonderry, was attended by paramedics and taken to the nearby Oxford Radcliffe Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The horse was uninjured in the accident, which held up the later stages of the competition for nearly an hour.

Helissio beaten

PARIS (AFP) — Spinning World, ridden by Cash Asmussen, won the Emirates Prix du Moulin at Longchamp on Sunday afternoon beating 1996 European racehorse of the year Helissio into second place. Helissio, with Olivier Peslier on board, enjoyed a good workout over the shorter mile distance ahead of his bid to become the first horse in 20 years to win successive Arc de Triomphe races over a mile and

a half here on October 7. Daylami finished third in Sunday's race.

Warm reception for Athens bid committee

ATHENS (AFP) — The Greek government and members of the public feted the successful members of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games bid committee when they returned home on Sunday night. Athens, the traditional home of the Games, was Friday awarded the right to host the Games in 2004 after a vote of International Olympic Committee members in Lausanne. The members of the bid committee, led by Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, were wildly applauded after flying back into Athens to be greeted by Prime Minister Costas Simitis.

Blackburn sign Norwegian defender

LONDON (AFP) — England Premier League leaders Blackburn Rovers signed Norwegian international defender Thore Pedersen from German club St. Pauli on Monday for a fee believed to be one million pounds. Rovers manager

Roy Hodgson had been tracking Pedersen for months. Hodgson followed up his interest last month and Pedersen returned to Blackburn last week for further talks. The 27-year-old will help boost Rovers defence following the departures of Henning Berg to Manchester United and Graeme Le Saux to Chelsea.

Scottish clubs to set up elite league

GLASGOW (AFP) — Leading Scottish Premier Division clubs are set to form their own breakaway league next season, it was learnt on Monday. Hears made the move public when they said they had entered into an agreement with all the other members of the premier division to resign from the Scottish Football League at the end of this season. And Rangers vice-chairman Donald Findlay told BBC radio: "The major clubs have been talking for a time to secure Scottish football at the highest level. These clubs should have greater control over its destiny in all aspects. "Every premier league club is backing this," he added. Hibernian chairman Lex Gold said: "Our pro-

posal will be good for Scottish football as a whole not just the top clubs." Scotland team boss Craig Brown said: "I think they have looked at the way the Premiership in England have derived great financial benefits from television. It's a very radical change but not unexpected." Scotland's ten Premier Division clubs will unveil their plans in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Jamaica still in World Cup race

KINGSTON (AFP) — Jamaica, with a goal from English-based forward Deon Burton, defeated Canada 1-0 at a CONCACAF final-round World Cup qualifying game here Sunday. It was Jamaica's first victory over Canada. Burton scored the winning goal in the 57th minute when he was provided with a through pass from Linval Dixon from the right flank that left him with only the goalkeeper Craig Forrest to beat. The win enables Jamaica to leave bottom position in the CONCACAF final World Cup qualifying round robin and move into fourth place with the same number of points — eight — as third-place Costa Rica, its next opponent.

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India to throw state funeral with full military honours for Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Plans for Mother Teresa's state funeral with full military honours were finalised here on Monday as thousands of mourners continued to pay their final respects to the Nobel laureate.

A member of the archbishop of Calcutta's staff said Mother Teresa would be given full military honours on Saturday, declared by India as a day of national mourning, before the holding of a mass multi-faith service.

Monsignor Francis Gomes, overseeing the arrangements for the archbishop's office, said the Indian army would take responsibility for Mother Teresa's body on Thursday morning.

"They are not here for security reasons as such, but to pay full military honours," he said, adding she would be taken on a gun carriage from Calcutta's Saint Thomas' Church through Calcutta before Saturday's funeral service in a 15,000-seat football stadium.

Some reports said a 21-gun salute, traditional for state funerals normally reserved for India's prime ministers and presidents, would take place on Saturday.

Mother Teresa, who launched her order here in 1950 and devoted her life to serving the destitute and dying, died on Friday following several months of acute heart problems.

An estimated 40,000 mourners have in the past two days filed past her

embalmed body, in a trademark blue-and-white sari, to pay their respects.

Bemvinda Pereira, a Calcutta municipal official helping with Saturday's funeral arrangements, said the two-hour service at Netaji Stadium would "have the flavour of all religions" and include "inter-religious prayers."

A private service will be held by the Missionaries of Charity before Mother Teresa's burial in Mother House, the order's headquarters at the heart of Calcutta.

Monsignor Gomes added: "Mother Teresa's body will be wrapped in an Indian flag. Her head and feet will be visible."

He said the granting of a

state funeral should be seen "as a national honour which is given in a singular way to a very singular person."

Many dignitaries from across the world are expected to attend her funeral.

Hillary Clinton, the wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, may come while Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has confirmed he will attend. Pope John Paul II will be represented by Indian Cardinal Simon Lourdusamy and India by President K.R. Narayanan.

Sister Nirmala, who replaced Mother Teresa as head of the Missionaries of Charity in March, confirmed the funeral arrangements, adding: "I am sure Mother Teresa is watching

over all of us and praying for us."

More than 50 nuns congregated at the Spartan chapel of Mother House for morning Mass on Monday.

On the ground floor, meanwhile, officials discussed details for the burial. Officials said they wanted to ensure the grave, measuring 2.3 metres by three feet one metre, would not affect the structure of the building.

Mother Teresa, whose real name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, was born on August 27, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian parents.

Her order currently has around 2,500 nuns and 400 brothers in more than 100 countries.



PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS PRAY FOR MOTHER TERESA: An elderly Albanian woman prays at a Muslim shrine for Mother Teresa Monday. Mother Teresa, known as the 'Saint of Gutters' for her work with the poor, destitute and dying and born to Albanian parents, died last Friday of a heart attack (Reuters photo)



A Bulgarian girl prays in front of a picture of Mother Teresa in the 'St. Archangel Mihail' Roman Catholic chapel in the Black Sea port of Varna Monday (Reuters photo)

Vatican says Mother Teresa's sainthood has to wait 5 years

VATICAN CITY (R) — Mother Teresa will not be considered for sainthood for at least five years and even then her canonisation is by no means automatic, a senior Vatican official said on Sunday.

Archbishop John Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for social communications, acknowledged the late Mother Teresa, revered by many as "a living saint" for her work in the slums of Calcutta, was an exceptional figure in the Catholic Church.

"I would never say Mother Teresa is not a saint, she certainly is an extraordinarily holy woman," he told Reuters Television two days after the nun's death.

"But we cannot anticipate the judgement of the church," said the archbishop, whose council deals with media issues.

"With some wisdom, the church has asked that a five-year waiting period be observed before examining

the life of any person proposed for beatification and canonisation."

When a person is beatified they are declared blessed. They are elevated to sainthood through the process of canonisation.

The archbishop said the five-year delay was designed to prevent mistakes.

"It's to avoid any momentary enthusiasm after the death of a person and to make sure that there is solid, deep-rooted admiration for that person's holiness," he said.

"[The church] will examine all her writings to make sure they are in accordance with the doctrine revealed by Christ. I am sure that they will be in the case of Mother Teresa."

"They examine and question the people who have known her, individuals whose lives have been touched by her, in order to get concrete testimony to her holiness," he explained.

"And then of course there is the usual requirement of a miracle... this is a divine guarantee, you might say, of the holiness of that person."

Arch. Foley said proof of one miracle would be required before Mother Teresa could be beatified.

The miracle must be the result of a person praying to her for intercession with God and usually involves the healing of medical conditions that doctors are at a loss to explain.

A second miracle would be needed before Mother Teresa could become a saint.

"After one miracle the individual may be beatified, declared blessed," the archbishop said. "Then, after another miracle, the individual is declared a saint, one of those whom we know by faith to be with God in Heaven."

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta on Friday aged 87. Her funeral is due to take place there next Saturday.

Resettling Saudi's Iraqi refugees to end this year

DUBAI (R) — International host countries will this year end a large resettlement programme of Iraqi Gulf war refugees leaving some 6,800 at a desert camp in Saudi Arabia, a U.N. official said Monday.

Over 20,000 refugees have already been resettled from the camp at Rafha, on Saudi Arabia's northeastern border with Iraq.

"The host countries doubled their quotas for this year taking as many refugees as they can. They will close their resettlement programme at the end of the year," said Abdul Mawla Solh, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Saudi Arabia.

"The programme cannot be open forever. Those who will remain at the camp by the end of the year either want to stay there or return to Iraq voluntarily," he said by telephone from Riyadh.

He said of the 8,000 refugees still at Rafha now, some 6,800 would probably remain by the end of the year when the six-year resettlement programme is ended by the host countries, including the United States, Australia and Scandinavian states.

"Around 700 will leave this month and there are other

applications being studied," he said.

A U.S.-led coalition based in Saudi Arabia ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in February 1991. By mid-1991 about 32,000 Iraqi refugees remained in Saudi Arabia out of up to 70,000 refugees and prisoners of war.

They include soldiers as well as Shiite Muslim dissidents who fled when a post-war rebellion was crushed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces in southern Iraq.

The Rafha camp was set up as a transit location until refugees were resettled or repatriated in a programme that the UNHCR says is its largest in the world.

The camp, known as "Refugee Hilton of the Gulf War," is air conditioned and has schools and hospitals, but is ringed by barbed wire and the refugees are not allowed to leave.

"Those remaining are comfortable there. Many have started their own businesses like shops. Those don't want to leave," one diplomat based in Saudi Arabia said.

Mr. Solh said the UNHCR monitors the voluntary repatriation of those wishing to return to Iraq "to make sure they leave Saudi in a proper

way."

He said the programme had resettled 22,000 refugees while around 4,000 had accepted to return to Iraq, following an Iraqi amnesty a few years ago.

Mr. Solh said the latest official figures showed that Saudi Arabia has so far spent \$1 billion on camp expenses including housing and services.

"The Saudi position reflected by higher authorities says those people wanting to stay are considered guests and brothers and can take advantage of the Saudi hospitality until they wish to leave," he said.

The refugees were reported last year to be growing frustrated with the isolation of the camp and the fact they could not venture out. Fights and scuffles were reported as well as cases of nervous breakdowns among men and women.

Four years ago 13 people were killed in a riot over the barring of new arrivals from Iraq, but U.N. officials said there has been no major trouble since then.

Mr. Solh said the United States, Iraq's main foe, was the largest recipient of Iraqi refugees accepting a total of 14,000 from Rafha.

"The United States tolerates obvious transgressions such as Israeli settlements on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Jerusalem, the expansion of illegal settlements throughout the occupied territories and Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge its status as an occupying power," the letter reads.

The Arab American community "is anxious for the United States to be an honest broker, an objective mediator and the upholder of values, ideas and principles that can be the underpinnings of an enduring friendship between the Arab and the American people."

There are an estimated three million Arab Americans living in the U.S. The non-partisan ADC is one of several organisations that represent the interests of U.S. residents of Arab descent.

U.S. Arabs call on Albright to press Israel to comply with treaties

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has written to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright urging her to press Israel to comply with signed peace accords, group officials said here.

The letter was released on the eve of Ms. Albright's six-day visit to the region, which starts in Israel on Wednesday and also takes her to Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Arab-Americans want Ms. Albright to make it "an imperative necessity" rather than "concessions" by Israel "for Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions, international law and public policy statements of the U.S. government that support the peace process in the region, according to the letter signed by ADC chairperson Naila Asali."

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Turkey blasts Greek PM as 'irresponsible' for remarks

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey and Greece traded verbal barbs again Monday, with Ankara calling Greek Premier Costas Simitis "irresponsible" for saying any Turkish intervention in Cyprus would be a "casus belli" (cause for war).

Greece immediately rejected the comment, with government spokesman Dimitris Reppas in Athens stating that "on the Greek side, there are no irresponsible figures."

The exchange was triggered by a remark Mr. Simitis made Sunday at a press conference in Salonica in which he said "any Turkish intervention to change the current regime in Cyprus would constitute a casus belli." Mr. Simitis never specified what he meant by "intervention."

"Those who are supposed to be statesmen should not use the word 'war' so easily,"

Turkish Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs Isal Batu said Monday. "This is an irresponsible attitude," he said in comments on Turkish television.

Mr. Batu accused Greece of "having created a missile crisis" because it "encouraged the Greek Cypriots to buy missiles."

He was referring to Nicosia's purchase in January of Russian S-300 missiles for \$600 million, which angered Turkey. Though allies in NATO, Turkey and Greece remain tense neighbours at odds over several Aegean matters.

The previous Turkish government warned at the time it would take all measures, including military strikes, to block the installation of the missiles on the divided Mediterranean island.

Ankara sees the missiles as offensive weapons and a

threat not only to Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus but to southern Turkey as well.

Nicosia's Greek Cypriot government contends they are purely defensive.

Turkey "will not allow the missiles to become a bargaining instrument" for settling Greek and Turkish differences," said Mr. Batu.

The Greek government spokesman meanwhile repeated that Mr. Simitis's position as well as that of Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides was clear: "We want the total demilitarisation of Cyprus."

Turkey occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974 in response to a Greek-inspired coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece. The Turkish Cypriots declared their own state there in 1983.

Women students protest headscarf ban by Turkish secular government

ISTANBUL (R) — Islamist Turkish students protested Monday against a ban on wearing headscarves in their university identity card photographs.

Several dozen women students in Islamic-style headscarves gathered in front of Istanbul University's literature faculty to demonstrate against the rejection of their registration photos.

"Headscarved students are only being allowed to study if they put their beliefs to one side," Macide Goc, a headscarved lawyer representing the students, told reporters in front of the university.

She said the ban was against the constitution and promised to take legal action if the authorities refused to back down on the decision, taken by the university last

week. Decisions on dress are effectively left to the discretion of individual education establishments.

"Can't you re-Agenise me from this photo?" fourth-year student Gulay Gokcek asked cameramen as she held out her registration card, rejected earlier by the faculty.

The secularist government has pushed through parliament a military-inspired law restricting religious education since it came to power at the end of June.

Under the law, state education is being extended to eight years from the previous five in a move that will effectively lead to the closure of the many religious schools. Islamic dress is not covered by the law.

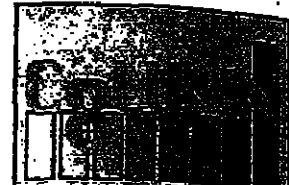
Thousands of Islamists across Turkey have protest-

ed after Friday prayers in recent weeks against the school reforms. Some demonstrations have ended violently with police intervention.

around two dozen police officers monitored Monday's protest, organised by the Islamist rights group Mazlumder and supported by the human rights association (IHD).

"People's right to education is being blocked because of their beliefs and the way they dress," the IHD's Ali Yilmaz told reporters.

The previous Islamist-led government, pressured from power by the secularist establishment, had sought to ease clothing restrictions which date back to the foundation of the secular republic by Kemal Ataturk.



Ex-Miss Universe mayor coy on romance with Trump

CARACAS (AFP) — Irene Saez is talking about becoming Venezuela's next president, but the platinum blonde ex-Miss Universe has had little to say about a reported romance with U.S. magnate Donald Trump. "He's a very special, really very special human being, an important person to me and a great friend," Saez told the daily El Nacional in Port of Spain, capital of Venezuela's Margarita island. While her warm reply was no denial of friendship, she did not confirm the report in El Nuevo Pais that she was having a steamy affair with Trump, who owns the Miss Universe pageant.

Girl of 11 miraculously survives suicide bid

BARI (AFP) — An 11-year-old Italian girl miraculously escaped death when she threw herself off a sixth-floor balcony following a squabble with her sister over a pair of jeans, police said Monday. The girl, who suffered multiple fractures, landed on the roof of a parked car, which cushioned the fall, police in this southern town said. Doctors, calling her survival a miracle, said she was not in a critical condition. Police said the apparent suicide bid followed a dispute with her 18-year-old sister over the jeans.

Connery throws his weight behind Scottish referendum

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Scottish actor Sean Connery gave his backing on Sunday to the formation of a Scottish parliament due to be considered in a referendum this week. A relentless campaigner for Scottish independence, Connery, 66, told 300 people at a public meeting here on the referendum that the issue of a Scottish parliament was "above and beyond political party. It is Scotland's rightful heritage — that its people should create a modern parliament reflecting the known Scottish characteristics of enterprise and compassion with justice. Therefore, Scotland must declare 'yes, yes' on Thursday," he told the meeting.

Gays protest closure of nightclubs

PARIS (AFP) — Seven hundred people demonstrated in the gay Marais quarter of Paris Sunday to protest against the authorities' closure of five nightclubs allegedly being used for drug trafficking, police said. Waving banners reading "Re-open the gay spots," the crowd — mostly homosexuals — gathered in front of one of the quarter's gay bars before walking through the narrow streets. The establishments include the well-known Champs-Elysees nightspot Queens, as well as Folies Pigalle, Scorpion, Enfer and Cox.

Slimming pill doctor goes to trial

COLOGNE (AFP) — A doctor suspected of having prescribed controversial slimming pills in 14,000 cases, which were briefly believed to have caused the death of two people, went on trial here Monday. Reinhard Jansen, 47, prescribed the non-licensed pills, which had been made by a pharmaceutical company at Euskirchen near Bonn for several years. Two pharmacists were also indicted and were standing trial with Jansen. Jansen said the composition of the slimming pills was "obscure."

Iraq to disclose programme

UNRWA countries

Levy says he against ending